

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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sweepstakes dressed-carriage competition. We see no justification for a ruling which denies the right of the best to win in such a class, for whatever virtue may attach to a registered pedigree in breeding animals, all should surely stand on common ground in the slaughter test for championship honors. In order to make the winter fair just what it was originally intended to be, a show of stock prepared or in preparation for the butcher's block, we submit that greater encouragement should be given for the exhibition of that class of stock by the offering of substantial money prizes sufficient to make it an object to prepare for such competition. The best animals that are brought out are certainly creditable, but were more tempting inducements offered there would doubtless be much larger competition, and there may be many diamonds in the rough which, if developed by skilful preparation, might shine as jewels in these shows. The Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association could make no better disposition of a liberal share of its surplus than by the offer of big prizes for steers, both in the pure-bred and grade classes, for the progeny of registered sires; and if the breeders of beef cattle of other breeds are ever going to make a display in these shows in Canada worthy of their class, they need to bestir themselves and by some means finance it so as to provide more generous prizes as an incentive. The success of the Blacks and the Whitefaces at Chicago in capturing championship and other high-class honors gives them a claim as beef producers which cannot be gainsaid, and it is not the first time they have come to the top in American shows, while in the Old Country they frequently divide the honors with the Shorthorns in a series of years.

In the sheep and swine departments of the Winter Fair the breeders are doing good work and make a grand showing, but even in these the prizes are too small to make it a sufficient inducement to use the knife freely and to prepare wethers and barrows in larger numbers and of ideal quality. The level-headed business men on the Boards of the Winter Fair and the various Breeders' Associations, it would seem, ought to find ways and means to hang up a better prize list than we have yet had, and the Government grants may well be increased if necessary in promoting an industry such as this, where the competition is open to all on equal terms and the interest is one on which the prosperity of the country so largely depends. We shall be prepared to find that in the near future the new building at Guelph will prove too small for a fat-stock and dairy show combined, and that the result will be the inception of a separate show for dairy cattle at some other date, and that both may prove highly successful in developing the industries they are associated with and which are of paramount importance, since to live stock and its products this country must look for its best returns.

The Late John I. Hobson.

BY C. C. JAMES.

Will you allow me to make a few references to the late John I. Hobson, whose death came as a sudden shock to so many of his old friends. It was fourteen years ago that I first made his acquaintance. For three years in succession we were thrown together intimately in connection with Farmers' Institute work, and, from constant companionship during those days in travelling over all parts of Ontario, I think I got an acquaintance with the man that would not have been possible from simply meeting him in business transactions or in ordinary everyday association. We travelled together, put up together, roughed it together in such a variety of ways, that I believe I saw certain characteristics in him of which otherwise I would have been quite ignorant. His counsel and encouragement to me, a young man just gaining experience in Institute work, have always been appreciated, and ever since it has always been a real pleasure when his fine, well-developed form appeared in the doorway of my office. I was always sure of a half-hour's pleasant chat about agriculture, the country, and the men in whom he was so much interested. These talks were always elevating; he kept away from small talk and gossip; there was a healthfulness about his views and conversation that was always refreshing. At the same time, I always found him a man of great moderation and modesty. Some people I know would think he was or must be conceited, for he had made a success of his work, and he carried himself well. I always thought he did so not because he was conceited, but because he felt a pride in his calling, and carried himself as though he tried to live up to his standard of what the farmer should be. In all the fourteen years of my acquaintance with him I never heard him say an unnecessarily harsh word of any man, especially of one of his own calling. His presence at our Institute meetings was in itself a fine element. Then, he was not somber or morose; he thoroughly enjoyed humor and mirth of a commendable nature. He could have a good laugh at another without the too frequent accompaniment of malice and unnecessary wounding of feelings. He could tell a good joke on himself with keen enjoyment. Envy, I think, was not a part of his being. When out on Institute work, he appeared at his best when we were so fortunate as to be the guests at some rural home where neatness and comfort were noticeable, and the highest ornament of the home was a bright, well-mannered family thoroughly in sympathy with one another. Two places he has often recalled since; one was a neat, clean, plainly-furnished, but comfortable, home in an eastern county in the backwoods; the other was a Quaker home in the West, where peace and goodwill were visible everywhere, especially in the face of the venerable father and mother.

Mr. Hobson impressed himself upon my observation particularly in his very high appreciation of good speaking, high-class literary production, and fine scenery. One Sunday evening in St. Thomas we went to hear a preacher who has since passed away. It was truly an eloquent sermon, preached by a man of another denomination than his own. His memory of that magnificent sermon never failed. He went up and thanked the preacher at the close of the service, and since then I have heard him again and again refer to the pleasure that it gave him. He had read many substantial works of English history and literature, and many a time in a quiet country hotel, while waiting, he has revealed his love for the best in letters. As for his love of scenery, he never missed a fine view. Only a few days before his death he dropped in for a half-hour's chat, and the talk was almost entirely made up of an account of the pleasures of the trip taken summer before last with the Legislative party to the Rainy River District. He had travelled

much, west to the Rockies and east across the Atlantic; but his enthusiastic description of that trip showed that his own country, his own Province, had a charm for him greatest of all. Wherever we went, he was always pleased to learn about the progress of our own people. Last of all, let me refer to his companionableness; he loved society of the best kind; he could talk, and he could listen. Among men of the right sort he opened up his true nature. His finest qualities were reserved for his own friends, and especially for his own family. It was in his own home that he was most beloved. His love for his own was very strong. When his only son died, a short time ago, I wrote him a letter of sympathy, and in reply I received a proof, if such were needed, that he was a man of the strongest family affection, one of those men whose feeling is not demonstrative, but so deep that others cannot fully appreciate. To those who knew Mr. Hobson intimately he revealed himself as a man of exceptionally fine qualities.

Sugar Beet Experiments.

YIELDS LARGER THAN EXPECTED—PURITY AND PERCENTAGE ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY.

During the past summer sugar-beet experiments have been conducted under the direction of the Ontario Agricultural College, in the following places: Aylmer, Welland, Newmarket, and the Experimental Farm, Guelph. In addition to these, sugar beets have been grown about London, Dunnville, Alvinston, and Warton. From these latter places samples have been forwarded to the Ontario Agricultural College for chemical analysis, through the kindness of Messrs. Green, Parry, Gordon, Yorke, and Forest. From the above places, in all there have been analyzed at the Ontario Agricultural College, during the months of September, October and November, 753 samples of 10 beets each, making in all 7,530 beets. Every sample has been taken by pulling, as they come in average row, 10 beets. These samples have been received upon different dates, for the purpose of tracing the increase in the per cent. of sugar as the season advances. For example, upon September 20th 47 samples were received from Aylmer and 37 from Welland; upon October 4th the same number were again received from each place; upon October 18th the same number again; on November 1st 45 samples from Aylmer and 36 from Welland; and upon November 15th 47 from Aylmer and 33 from Welland. From 34 to 38 samples were also collected from Newmarket upon the following dates: September 25th, October 9th, October 23rd, and November 6th. From the other outlying points, samples were received upon several different dates; but it may be mentioned that these beets were grown largely under local direction, or according to the farmer's idea; while those received from the above places, viz., Aylmer, Welland, and Newmarket, were under special direction of the Ontario Agricultural College.

The value of these experiments as determining the point as to whether our soil and climate are adapted to the production of a quantity and a quality of beets to make the beet industry in Ontario a self-sustaining and profitable one, both to the manufacturer and the farmer, will not be questioned. In connection with this experiment, exact information regarding the cost of production has been collected. There have been received statements, based upon actual experience as to the cost of production, from 85 farmers. There have also been collected figures giving the actual yield, gross and net, of beets per acre from 109 different farmers.

One of the first questions that will arise among farmers in case a sugar factory is to be established, is what yield of beets can our fields produce, and what price will we receive for our beets? This opens the question as to the difference between the actual tons delivered at the factory and the tons of tared beets for which the farmer will receive pay from the factory. These figures as to the yield per acre will give exact information upon this point, beets having been not only weighed in the condition in which they will be delivered at the factory, but also their tared weight determined, exactly as it would be in actual factory conditions. Without going into details of this extensive sugar-beet experiment, it may be stated that very much larger yields have been obtained than were expected, and that the per cent. of sugar and the purity of the beets, where properly cared for, are entirely satisfactory.

"At the dispersal sale, in September, 1875, of the famous herd kept at Aylesby Manor, near Great Grimsby, by Mr. Wm. Torr," writes Mr. John Downing, "Mr. T. C. Booth was a big buyer. He gave the enormous sum of £12,122 for the twelve females purchased by him on that occasion, or an average of £1,000 apiece. The Rev. Thomas Staniforth also figured as one of the principal buyers at the same sale, Highland Flower being secured by him at 1,500 guineas and Heather Flower at 1,000 guineas. The sale proved so successful that the eighty-four lots which changed hands realized within a few pounds of £50,000 or an average of over £510 apiece. It is interesting to learn that of the thirteen bulls disposed of at this sale, two came to Ireland, Sir William Stirling took one to Scotland, Mr. Harrison secured one for California, and Mr. Marshall took another to New Zealand. The rest found new homes in various parts of England."