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EDITORIAL

A Merry Christmas to all our readers.

No other holiday season is so much enjoyed as that connected with Christmas.

A correspondent in this issue gently reminds the man on the farm that he has not been progressive enough. Read what he says on specialization.

"Peanut butter" and "oleo" may "look good" to peanut politicians, but Canadian legislators have been brought up on an honest and more wholesome diet.

It is not the intrinsic value of the gift which counts, but the spirit in which it is given. Some of the most highly-prized trinkets are priceless on this account.

The addresses at the Guelph Winter Fair were more interesting than ever before. See our report in last week's issue and don't fail to read in this issue. Also see reports of other addresses.

With the best of draft horses, dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep and swine of many recognized pure breeds to choose from, and a growing demand for most of them is a rosy prospect for the Canadian live-stock farmer.

When exhibitors and visitors turn out in such numbers as they did this year at the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, held in rather cramped quarters, what will they do when the new arena is completed and there is the best of accommodation for stock and man?

"Business acumen" was emphasized in a lecture at Guelph as one of the essentials to success in pig feeding. How directly it applies to all farm operations. Pick out the successful men in the neighborhood and almost invariably business ability stands out prominently.

Most of the university curricula are already pretty well crowded, but, notwithstanding the amount of "cramming" each student is at present compelled to do, a course to develop militia officers is to be put on at our universities. From the small boy in knickers to the full-fledged graduate of our highest educational institutions the authorities seem bent on making soldiers and developing the military spirit.

The men of no other business are so divided as is the farming population of the country. As a body of men farmers represent a wide diversity of individual interests, but surely these interests are not so far apart that some level for all cannot be settled upon. One body of farmers agitating for one thing, and another body of men engaged in another branch of farming favoring something directly opposite, can never be effective in bettering Canada's agricultural condition.

What the Winter Fair Teaches.

An exhibition to accomplish all it sets out to do must have an outstanding value as an educational institution. From this viewpoint the Winter Fair excels the autumn exhibitions as far as live stock and other things agricultural are concerned. There are lessons galore for the farmer at this winter show—lessons in the judging ring, where all breeds and classes compete on common ground, and lessons in the lecture room, where prominent, practical breeders, feeders, farm managers and investigators give the benefits of their advanced knowledge to all those who are privileged to attend. There are always new problems to face and new lessons to learn. The judging arena, while not large enough to cope with the situation, afforded thousands an opportunity of viewing at close range the types of animals which our best breeders are trying to produce at the present day and which our markets demand. In the draft horse size, massiveness and heavy muscling alone are not enough, but these, coupled with clean, flat bone, large feet, with prominent, well-defined hoof-heads and snappy, straight, bold, true action, regardless of the breed, is the horse that wins. This was proven from class to class throughout all the horse judging at the recent show.

The lessons were just as outstanding in the beef cattle. The winning animal must have size sufficient for age, but it must carry an abundance of smooth, firm fleshing, with the deep body and the well-sprung rib and the straightness of lines so well marked in the champions.

The dairy cow is the opposite in conformation of the beef animal. Short tests do not prove very valuable to the dairy breeder. There are many factors which may enter into a three-day test, or even a seven-day test, to run the percentage of fat up in the milk and thus place a cow at the head of the list which for a longer test would have had no chance and which as an individual might be inferior in type and conformation. However, the short test is the only feasible plan of testing for a winter fair and serves to show the people certain possibilities of good stock, good care and good feeding.

The lecture room is not always as well filled as it should be, but this year we noted that more discussion than usual was entered into by those present. It is from discussion that the real good comes out of lectures. The man who gets so interested as to ask questions of vital importance to himself usually helps greatly the others present who are in all probability similarly situated. Many helpful discussions were entered into at the close of each lecture. The way the large audience warmed up on stallion enrolment, the dairy Shorthorn, lightning rodding, breeding and feeding swine, questions of vital importance to the dairy industry, and various addresses on the present status of the poultry industry, showed that at least a portion of the farming population is becoming intensely interested in the work they are engaged in. We cannot do better than urge our readers to turn back to our last week's issue and read the full report of the Winter Fair and also of the lectures at Guelph, some of which, owing to lack of space, appear in this issue. Read them carefully, weigh the points brought put and if you think they warrant further discussion, our columns are open.

A Permanent Institution.

What is there in a name? An unmeasured quantity as it applies to the "Guelph" Winter Fair. In the past few years the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair has outgrown the buildings provided for it. Its clothes have become too small, and they have been let out to the last inch. Extension after extension has been made. This year a part of the city hall was brought into service for the seeds and other exhibits, and still there was crowding of exhibits and "jamming" of people. The crowd goes to Guelph. After the dissensions of a year ago, and the strong complaints raised as to accommodation for the fancy stock, and for the visiting public anxious to see and learn something, to have the good old fair come back stronger than ever before in number of entries, quality of stock, and in daily attendance was conclusive proof that whether or not National or International shows are inaugurated, rise or wane, the Winter Fair at Guelph is a permanent fixture, and will draw large crowds and good exhibits. New exhibitions help the old-established fairs, and the more really good exhibitions the better. With the promise of Federal aid and also with renewed hope of greater Provincial support, the Provincial Winter Fair closed its doors for 1913, having accomplished the beginning of the great successes in store for it. The old patchwork building is altogether inadequate, and further patching would be a suicidal policy. The grants are now promised, and the rapid growth of the exhibition is surely proof of the growing popularity and stability of the institution sufficient to warrant the building of a large arena big enough to accommodate the increasing thousands which are sure to attend the Fair year after year. Improvements must be made with permanency and rapid growth in view. The management should build for the future, not for to-day or for next year. The present building is a sample of that short-sighted policy. The need is urgent. Lack of space should not be longer allowed to mar the Fair of a great deal of its educational value. The Fair is to go on, and must get the needed support of the Government immediately.

The Spurious Newspaper Hawker.

Nothing is so loathed by reliable publishing companies as the methods used by some other publishers to practically force people to subscribe to papers which they do not want, either to get rid of an unduly persistent, and often entirely obnoxious canvasser or mayhap the victim is humbugged by a cheap and practically worthless premium in the form of a so-called fountain pen, razor or some such inducement. Canvassing for a farm paper should be just as elevating a calling as being agent for any other necessary commodity, but many a young man looks askance at a position on a circulation department, not caring to be associated with a certain class of newspaper salesmen of the "fakir" variety. This latter gentlemen gets in his best work at some of the leading agricultural exhibitions where he literally collars every man, woman and child that looks easy enough to part with enough money, as he untruthfully says, to pay the postage on the particular publication he offers, and he generously throws in what he has the gall to call the best fountain pen, best razor or best something else on the market. He does not hesitate to use any possible decoy to get the prospective