

# Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal

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## EDITORIAL

We got our information second hand, but there appears to be one consolation, that the side-shows have not been able this year to put on anything more vulgar and obscene than they gave last year. The question now is, will public opinion demand more or less degrading and immoral spectacles? The presence and prevalence of such detractions at the fairs depends wholly upon the patronage they are given.

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One of Mr. Gibson's suggestions for the betterment of Winnipeg Exhibition was that every person excepting the director in charge be debarred from entering the ring while the awards were being made. Old Country management was cited as a precedent for such a regulation, but in a picture of a ring of stock being judged at the Highland last month we are able to count no less than eleven men in the enclosure, most of them of course with badges, but surely not all directors and judges.

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The Manitoba Government is strengthening the Agricultural College staff by the addition of two new lecturers, one to assist Principal Black in animal husbandry, and the other to take up agricultural chemistry. G. G. White, B. S. A., one of last year's graduating class at Guelph, we understand is selected for the work in chemistry. The work upon the new domestic science hall is now proceeding steadily, but as yet no announcement is made as to the time of beginning the course.

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Of course everyone has to have a fling at it, just as though the commercial structures of Canada would crash to the ground if every person who considered himself of note did not make it his duty to bear the price of wheat by lauding the prospects of the crop as soon as it began to appear above the ground. Dr. Saunders, director of Dominion experimental farms, has contributed his share to the general bear news, but in the Doctor's case we shall have to make allowance for his interest in the welfare of the whole Dominion, and the effect upon his mind of the sight of such vast fields. Farmers at present are concerned about getting the last year's crop harvested as much as about the prospects for the present season and every report that comes from official sources naturally has its effect either in tending to enhance or depress the current prices of wheat.

### Co-operation in the Harvest.

People are wont to descant upon the results that have accrued to us, as farmers, through the advent of labor-saving agricultural machinery. It has promoted the industrialism of the cities, they say, and transferred from man to the horse much of the physical labor of the farm. It also greatly increased the speed with which farm crop may be put in and taken off. Labor-saving machinery, though a modern necessity, is a not unmixed boon. It has tended to make the farm more self-contained in its operations. For this and other reasons, there has been an unfortunate decline of communal relations among the people. In the old days neighbors rallied more to each other's aid than is the custom now. "Exchanging works" was the order. The combination of many hands made the work go merrily forward, while the toil of the long forenoon was broken about 10 o'clock by the appearance of the good-wife and daughters with a lunch basket, affording a cheery halt, and fortifying "the men" for another two hours' onslaught at the

hay or grain. We might do worse than revert to those good old days. There is nothing better than communion in labor to promote the amenities of life. The growing spirit of independent isolation is not good. It is opposed to the principle of co-operation, which will do more to immediately overcome the shortage of men that handicaps the successful cultivation of our magnificent farm lands than any other one agency in sight. In the rush of harvest, it will be found especially helpful in saving the crops, but in many cases, such as grain-cutting, silo-filling, threshing, wood-sawing, and so on, it will lessen materially the outlay in the aggregate for costly machinery by purchasing and using on the co-operative plan. In many instances one outfit will admirably serve the purposes of four or five adjacent farms. Done in a fair and friendly spirit of give-and-take, it will promote the general interests of the locality and make the farmer less dependent upon the evanescent supplies of help from the labor bureau.

### Another Slave.

Members of the equine, bovine, ovine, canine, and even the feline species have contributed of their physical energies to assist man in the performance of laborious tasks, but always the problem of enlisting the services of his porcine majesty in the work of ameliorating the stress and strain of humanity's toil has defied solution. The horse is utilized in various ways. The ox, and frequently the cow, devote the forces which they possess to the performance of tasks not in keeping with the even dignity of their lives. The meek and lowly sheep has stepped upon that rack of animal torture, and tasted of the torments that an infernal genius might devise to punish the violators of the laws of the ovine god—for what punishment so wearing, so tantalizing, as to always climb and climb and never to be able to stand upon the hill top? Yet the docile sheep has endured the horrors of the tread power that humanity's load might be the lighter and that his fellow worker, the dog, might devote himself to more appropriate tasks. And through it all the hog has luxuriated in waving fields of green and given himself up to the whims of his perverse nature. Man's mind, however, in its course of subduing all things to its will, has descended upon the realm of the porcine potentate and is teaching the hog to earn his bread by the power of his snout. It is a far step for the hog to rise to the plane of preparing his own food, as he now does by means of the Silfert power grinder. Looking at him busily engaged cracking grain for his daily meal (he as yet has but one, a continuous one), and pumping water to drink, one naturally asks if this might not be typical of man's first attempt to better his condition, and if with but a little more ingenuity, the hog who now grinds his own food might not in time devote the power and skill which he undoubtedly possesses, to the production of electric light and heat. Evidently the use of so much power for grinding requires the expenditure of so many units of heat to generate it, and if the hog could produce the power to generate the heat to keep the hog pen warm, would not the uncountable calories of animal heat which escape from the pens throughout the length and breadth of the land be saved, and so an economy of feed would be effected. That accomplished, might it not be possible that the scarcity of power in the field would suggest the use of hog power to harvest the grain, thresh it, and also grind it?

Strange, is it not, that the hog which has so long been the object of man's malevolent spirit from the time he was hunted in his wild state of undomesticated rapacity down to the present, when the "blind pig" as big game excels all others in the thrilling excitement of the hunt, should now be pressed into service for himself

and become one of man's most ingenious co-partners, even to the extent of preparing food for himself to make of himself food for those who direct him?

### The Significance of Live Stock and Agricultural Products in our Fairs.

Ever since agricultural fairs originated live stock has been the significant factor involved in their existence. Two hundred years ago, about the time the English pioneers in the breeding art were affecting such marvellous improvements in the native breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and swine, live stock shows, in part as we now know them, had their birth. Fairs originated, however, centuries before, and even as early as the time of Alfred, great meetings called fairs were held at intervals, where buyers and sellers came together for an interchange of goods. But live stock fairs began less than a hundred and fifty years ago and the manner in which they came into being and the function they were required to perform are interesting enough to be noted. About the year 1800 live stock began to assume an importance in British agricultural affairs such as neither it nor anything else had ever assumed before. Breeding became an art, a business in itself; vast improvements were made in the stock of the country; new breeds were originated. England was soon famed the world over for her live stock. But a problem of no small magnitude confronted the earlier breeders. The difficulty was not so much in producing good stock after they had got started, as it was in disposing of that stock after it was produced. Various advertising schemes were tried. Conspicuous among them was that of one breeder who has won undying fame in Shorthorn lore, with his "Durham Ox" and the "White Heifer that Travelled," two animals of exceptional Shorthorn merit sent all over England to advertise the herds they represented. But chief among the innovations made was the revival of the fairs which had been dormant for several centuries, with the institution of live stock to the place formerly occupied in them by goods for trade and barter. They brought prospective buyers and sellers together; they furnished a ready means by which the various breeds and individuals in each breed could be studied and compared. Gradually there came to be in all men's minds a settled type, a fixed ideal of the breed they were working with; improvement became uniform, breed type recognized. It was no small task which these first shows accomplished. Britain resurrected her old medieval trade fairs, and transformed them into live stock exhibitions. English breeders came together in one great field; they competed one with another; they discovered what was best in every breed; they bred toward that ideal. They made their country famous to the ends of the earth for its live stock and they raised themselves from a condition of serfdom and peasantry to that of intelligent agriculturists.

Nobody is so narrow-minded of course as to attribute all the progress made in British agriculture during the past two hundred years to the enlightening influence of an occasional stock fair; other factors quite as potent no doubt, aided in bringing about the result. The fact of the matter is, however, and no superhuman perception is required to discover the truth, that much of the prosperity, agriculturally speaking, which England has enjoyed for the past hundred years, is due to the preponderating hold which she has on the purebred stock business of the world, and she gained that hold in the first place because her breeders had enough foresight, or ambition, or enterprise, call it what you like (we prefer to name it common sense), to adapt their oldest and most popular national institutions as a great advertising and exhibiting medium of their various breeds. They learned

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