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## EDITORIAL

### Better Fruit Packing

Realizing that fruit must be properly packed before it can be marketed to advantage the progressive horticultural department in British Columbia are meeting the situation by offering prizes for fruit packing. The competitors will comprise those who have been trained in packing schools conducted last winter, and those standing seventy-five per cent. or better in general proficiency will be given a fruit packer's certificate in addition to prize money won at the contest.

British Columbia seems bent on developing into a fruit producing province that depends on quality to build up and maintain a reputation. Stringent measures have been adopted to keep down insect and fungous troubles, and now practical steps are being taken to have the fruit from clean orchards presented to the purchaser in the best possible condition. This is the kind of work that counts.

### Duty of Exhibitors

Exhibitors at agricultural exhibitions are in a position to do much that will maintain a high standard in regard to the placing of ribbons. Nothing is more to be deplored in a show-ring than to see an inferior animal walk off with the first award. Western Canada fairs have not become notorious for crookedness in the ring, but now and then there are whisperings that indicate all was not on the square. In the main, however, honorable judges have been employed, and even though one or more exhibitors were disappointed it was agreed that the judge did what he felt was right. In such cases there is little room for complaint unless the judge is very incom-

petent. Moreover, there generally is room for difference of opinion.

Managing directors should guard against incompetency. However, when gross crookedness is in evidence honest breeders should not be slow to expose the wrong. There should be no such thing as foregone conclusions that certain breeders will carry off the chief honors at a given show. The same individual or firm may have superior animals year after year, but others should stand on the same footing when ribbons are being placed.

The clean show, where animals win on their merits, is the only one worth patronizing. Keep Western shows clean.

### Agriculture at Fairs

A brief review of the prize lists prepared by exhibitions and summer fairs reveals the fact that the management of these important functions are realizing that the cash offered for purely agricultural features should be a big proportion of the total prize money. Where hundreds of dollars were spent a few years ago thousands are spent now. Not only have the number of prize awards in each section and the cash allowance for each prize been increased but also new sections are added from year to year. Offerings in a single class of horses at big shows frequently total one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars, besides specials; in cattle the prize money in important classes also runs close to two hundred dollars in addition to specials. At Winnipeg over three hundred dollars are hung up for wheat prizes in one section, where a few years ago the total offered for competition in all grain classes did not total over half that amount.

At the smaller local fairs held under the auspices of agricultural societies, also, there is a creditable change in the attitude of the directors toward distinctly agricultural features. Many dollars that formerly went to horse races now encourage agriculture in a more practical form. Judging competitions and other details that interest and instruct the younger element are given a place.

Such changes in prize lists are only in keeping with the powers of the agricultural industry in this century.

### Cause of Higher Living Expenses

During the past few years the rapid increases in the actual cost of living have been forcibly impressed on the people of all countries. Various economic authorities and others who would like to have themselves classed as such have offered explanations as to the reasons for so much greater expense in keeping an ordinary family going now than was required one or two decades ago. On another page

of this issue will be found a summary of the chief causes as arrived at by a select committee of the United States Senate after what is claimed to have been a thorough investigation.

Although this report contains much that is patent to the ordinary individual it is worth studying. Every farmer realizes that the actual cost of production has increased during the last twenty years. Many also know full well that reduced fertility of their acres has resulted in a lower average production. This latter is, one factor that agriculturists should make an attempt to remedy. There must needs be expenditure for fertilization, but the sooner steps are taken to avoid soil depletion the easier it is to keep up the crop-producing power of that soil.

However, all who have studied the situation, particularly in towns and cities and in prosperous rural districts, realize that the "higher standard of living" has been a great big factor in the real cost per person per annum to supply requirements. We live in a different age from that of only a few years ago. Dainties—yes, luxuries—must be had in many homes. And if the individual can afford it who is going to object?

### Registering Grain Varieties

With the issue of seed catalogues each year comes the introduction of new varieties of grains, potatoes and divers other products grown by farmers. When it is considered that many of these so-called introductions are nothing but standard varieties under a new name, it should not be out of the question to demand that the individual or the firm making the introduction shall be required to register the same, giving full particulars as to origin and characteristics. Present advancement in agriculture demands that as much attention be paid to farm plants as to farm animals. Importers and home breeders must register purebreds of the different breeds. The purchaser is given every opportunity to ascertain particulars regarding what he buys. The same conditions should apply to oats, wheat, barley, potatoes, etc.

How often have farmers and gardeners been induced to pay fabulous prices for a small lot of potatoes that after a season or two were found to be simply Early Rose, Elephant, or some standard variety that could have been purchased at an ordinary price per bag! The same may be said of oats. Note how many varieties are on sale that resemble Banner or Abundance sufficiently to warrant a person in calling them by one or other of those names! In wheats it is only necessary to refer to the prominence given to Alaska wheat a year or two ago.

The prevalence of these fake introductions