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Editorial.

Where Shall we Get our Live-stock Judges?

This is considered by many as a very difficult question to answer, and rightly so, for the reasons that many of the men qualified to judge are making their living, and in some cases a competence, by breeding and selling live stock, and secondly, that competition is so keen and the advertising of a show so valuable that there is not always the same scrupulous honesty observed that holds good in other lines of trade and commerce.

Bates, of Shorthorn fame, is on record as saying that "he could find forty men fit to be a premier for one fit to judge Shorthorns," and no doubt the same holds good in other breeds of live stock.

The breeder and dealer in live stock is in some cases a reliable judge, but many of them fall down because of their bias for certain pedigrees and business connections in the breeding world; hence, we find one breeder abstaining from showing because another breeder or man closely in touch with a clique is to be the judge; and yet, in spite of all this, not a few breeders hold to a back-century idea that unless a man has lived so closely with stock as to be well smeared with manure or slovenly in dress, that person cannot be a judge of live stock.

Unfortunately, there has been a half-heartedness in this matter by the powers that supply expert judges. Some deserve part of the title, but very few the noun and its adjective, unless it refers to a person as being a judge of an audience, and particularly the gallery. The attempt to make a judge out of a very ordinary but glib-tongued man by placing a score-card in his hand and labelling him "expert judge" is ridiculous and dangerous, and only results in disgusting people who know better, and retards live-stock improvements as well, as a result of the inculcation of low standards and ideas.

The agricultural colleges certainly have an important role to fill in turning out reliable judges, a product in which Guelph has been notoriously sterile, considering the number of students who have gone in and out of her gates. The various stock-judging competitions show the agricultural college man is able to hold his own, as do the records of the show. We do not claim, by any means, that all college men will be efficient judges of live stock. Good judges of animals are scarce, but we do consider that the general public and stock-breeding world will do better to rely on the college-bred judge than the majority of breeders and dealers. In-and-out judging, attempting to divide the honors so that all the judge's friends will be pleased or others placated, or the choosing of one type in one class and another in a different class, will be largely avoided if the agricultural college judge is employed.

A judge who finds it necessary to spend much over an hour on an average-sized class of live stock is badly in need of an agricultural college training. The attempt to make people believe that the whole future of the live-stock business demands deliberation at great length, such as was illustrated in the show-ring recently, deceives no one; instead it gives onlookers the idea, either that the judge lacks decision or else that he does not know his business. Many shows in the States (where they grow the beef cattle that beat ours in the British market) use the agricultural-college-made judge, and report on him as a satisfactory product. It is also significant that thirty (30)

minutes is considered as sufficient time to place the awards in the stock-judging competitions. Not only so, but all the generalship of the showman is wasted when an animal is forced to stand for such lengthy periods—not always in a natural position. If a decision cannot be arrived at in an hour, the animals should be dismissed and another class called, or, in case of two judges, the referee made use of.

The college man's training is such a one that the market requirements are never overlooked; sentiment with him has no place; he has not the remotest interest in this or that exhibit, and can be relied upon not to make himself a laughing-stock, or be dubbed crooked. We are aware of a case in which a big season was made by an inferior stallion, simply because he had been scored away up by one of the so-called expert (government) judges. In marked contrast with this is the fact that the high-priced syndicate horse is always kept away from the keen, businesslike analysis of the properly-educated judge. There is an old saying, "Judges are born, not made," which, like lots of other old sayings, is only partly true; certainly only very few judges are born; the necessary remainder are made, and the best manufactory is an up-to-date agricultural college.

Typhoid and the Water Supply.

Annually, we hear of outbreaks of typhoid fever in some of the little towns of the prairie, and, occasionally, on farms adjacent to such villages. There seems to be a greater number of outbreaks in the dry seasons, which is accounted for by the fact that the water supply, which is surface water in many cases, is lessened. The lessening of the water supply is no reason of itself for the prevalence of typhoid. The presence of this disease of the human intestines is, however, about as good evidence as can be got that the water supply from which the sick ones drank was contaminated, and that contamination was due to the presence of the germs of typhoid fever. Therefore, it is important that the well which supplies the drinking water should be a considerable distance from the privy, and it will be found profitable, as well as sanitary, to use plenty of lime (unslaked) or strong solutions of coal-tar germ-killers in that necessary household office.

As a further precaution during an outbreak of typhoid, and, in fact, at other times, the water for drinking purposes obtained from the shallow wells should be boiled, thus destroying any harmful germs therein contained. In addition, all vessels intended to hold articles of human food, especially milk-containers, should be scalded after being washed in cold or tepid water, and put up to drip and dry in the sun. Typhoid is a fearful scourge, oftentimes fatal, and can be largely prevented by following out the suggestions made. If any household is so unfortunate as to have a case of the dread disease mentioned, extreme care should be taken that all vessels used in the sick-room, and discharges from the patient should be rendered innocuous by the plentiful use of well-tried and proved germ-killers, called by some people disinfectants.

Professional Appreciation.

Dear Sirs,—I congratulate you on the excellent Exhibition Number of the "Farmer's Advocate." The "Farmer's Advocate" is a very fine periodical, and your special numbers have been particularly good.

Yours truly,
B. P. RICHARDSON

Weaknesses of the Dominion Show.

Before the Winnipeg Dominion Exhibition came to a close on August 6th, it was quite evident to most people familiar with the management of that institution that the time has not yet arrived in this country when an exhibition, even on a presumably large scale, should be allowed to cover two weeks. The summer in this country is too short, the people too busy, and the population insufficient to ensure a large attendance at a fortnight show.

The contention of the poultrymen that two weeks was too long was pretty well borne out by results before the show closed. It will be remembered that Winnipeg Poultry Association, some time before the Exhibition began, requested that the birds be required only to stay eight days. This was refused, and yet before the Exhibition was half over, one exhibitor, a director, was allowed to withdraw animals that had not taken prizes, and on the second day of the second week, a number of horses, including prizewinners, the property of two exhibitors from the Territories, were allowed to be returned home. The showmen from the West need not be blamed because they were capable of working the management to the extent of getting off. It is not they who deserve censure, but those who granted special favors to a few and denied similar advantages to others. We regret very much that anything of this nature has occurred, as it cannot fail to injure the future usefulness of the show, which, by the way, appears to be developing into a gigantic vaudeville and collection of disgusting and demoralizing side-shows, rather than a grand exhibition of an agricultural country's agricultural and live-stock resources.

The day has surely passed when Canadians are prepared to tolerate, much less encourage, such a ridiculous fake as Neromus, the bull fighter, was allowed to put on in no less a place than the live-stock judging pavilion. We feel it a painful duty to have to refer to such matters, and while it may be true that a crowd can be obtained for any performance, no matter how ridiculous, and that sensational attractions are, perhaps, necessary to draw large crowds, it is certainly not necessary for the leading exhibition of Western Canada to give encouragement to that which can have no other effect than to degrade the morals of the youth of this fair young country.

It is bad enough to gather the motley crew that always accompanies the racing stable, but it is ten times worse to herd together an aggregation many of whom are but little better than those who to-day adorn penitentiaries and houses of ill-fame. We hope none of our American friends who visited the Dominion of Canada Exhibition will go away with the idea that our side-shows were a "Made-in-Canada" contribution.

Although, as stated in a previous issue, there was much for which the management deserved credit, there was, nevertheless, a very evident tendency to allow various features to run themselves after the opening shots had been fired. It is one thing to prepare for a large exhibition, but it is another matter to run it properly, and it is in this particular that the directors or management of the Winnipeg Exhibition will have to pay more attention in future.

In the live-stock department this year improvement worthy of appreciation was noticeable in some respects. Exhibitors were compelled to carry their catalogue number into the ring, much to the convenience of spectators. The classes were called out promptly, except in the case of Thoroughbreds, and the breed parades that were