

of the beet sugar industry as for the iron industry. However this may be, the fact that a syndicate is considering the advisability of investing \$650,000 in such an enterprise would seem to show that there was money somewhere in the business of making beet sugar.



Special Attractions at Fairs

A correspondent in a recent issue of the *New England Farmer* makes the following observation regarding special attractions at fairs:

"I do not believe in the so-called 'circus attachments,' such as tight rope walking, acrobatic performances, trained dogs, etc., as one of the largest factors in drawing crowds, since they overshadow the real intent of the fair, and injure the farmer. But I believe there should be enough of such outside amusement, such as bicycle and foot-racing, to keep the crowd interested during waits, and (as in one instance under my observation and promotion) a firemen's muster in connection with the fair. In short—I believe the fair should be the attraction, and amusement the secondary consideration."

The statement contained in the last sentence of this quotation, that the fair itself should be the attraction and amusement the secondary consideration, will, we think, meet the approval of all those who have given the subject any serious thought. There was a time when, though we had the special attraction at our big fairs, it was only of very secondary consideration, while the fair itself was the chief drawing card. But this order of thing seems to have completely changed of late years, and, instead of finding the special attraction holding a secondary position at our large exhibitions, we find it forming the chief feature of the show, with the fair itself in a somewhat subservient position in regard to it. This condition of affairs has not been brought about in a moment, but is of gradual growth, with perhaps an extra push forward during the past year or two. Should the special attraction continue to grow in prominence at our large fairs as it has done of late, it will not be long till our exhibitions will be enormous amusement and circus performances, with the exhibits of agricultural products, live stock, etc., occupying the position of side-show curiosities, where visitors may view the kind of objects that delighted our fathers at the old-time exhibitions.

But it is to be hoped that the better sentiment of our people will prevail, and that the special attraction at the fair will soon be relegated to its proper place as a mere secondary feature of our big exhibitions. For, after all, it is because a large number of the visitors to our fairs are attracted by these special features that they are given such prominence by our fair managers. But what is responsible for this somewhat depraved taste on the part of exhibition sight-seers? Does not the fact that the amusement rather than the educational side of our fairs has been made prominent, account for a large share of it? While there will always, perhaps, be a certain element who attend our large fairs only to be amused, and unless they get amusement will not pay the admission fee, still we believe that the majority visit the fair to learn something, or, at all events, to note the progress that is being made in manufactures, live stock, agricultural products, etc. For this reason we believe the educational side of our large fairs should be given more prominence than is now given to it.

As the above extract shows, this subject is receiving some attention to the south of the line. As far as we are able to judge, the special attraction has, perhaps, obtained a stronger foothold at American than at Canadian fairs. At our large fairs, as we pointed out a few weeks ago, though the special attraction has grown greatly in importance, the agricultural and other exhibits have not deteriorated at all in quantity or quality. In fact, in many ways they are better than a few years back. But this does not get around the fact that the special attraction, the side show, and such like features are given such a prominence at our big fairs that they practically overshadow the regular exhibits.

The Brantford Milk Test.

A breeder of dairy cattle sends us the following criticism concerning the milk test at the Southern Fair at Brantford, and asks for our views in regard to the method of conducting the test:

"I have been looking for some explanation about the milk test at Brantford. It was run on a very unfair basis. I don't mean that any person was to blame, but that it was an oversight. The rules and regulations were taken from those used at the Provincial Dairy Test last December. The Provincial test was a two-day test and one point was allowed for every ten days in milk after the first twenty days in milk. At Brantford this fall there was only a one-day test, and a cow that had been milking a long time had a big start, while a fresh cow only had one day to make it up. In this test a Holstein grade, long in milk, had 21 points to start with, while she only gave thirty-one lbs. of milk. An Ayrshire cow gave fifty-three lbs., a difference of twenty-two lbs., of milk in one day, and nearly double the butter-fat; so there was nothing fair about the test. A milk test is all right if properly conducted and to do so the feed consumed should be considered, then we would know which was the most profitable cow to keep."

About a year ago a somewhat lengthy though a very interesting and profitable discussion took place in these columns as to the best methods of conducting milk tests. Though nothing very definite has resulted so far from that discussion in the way of bringing about better methods of conducting milk tests we still have hopes that an improvement will yet be made, especially at the larger fairs. At that time we took the ground that in order to have a milk test that would show which was the most profitable cow, the feed consumed should be taken into account, and we still hold to the same view. Our contention is that there is nothing further to be gained by conducting milk tests as they have been carried on at the Toronto and other fairs for several years back, and that the time has come when a step in advance should be taken, and an effort made to take into account the amount of food consumed by each cow during the test. We have learned all that can be learned from milk tests where only the total solids are taken into account in summing up results, and are now ready to advance a little and learn along other lines.

As to the test conducted at the Brantford fair we are not familiar enough with it to express any definite opinion in regard to the way it was managed. We can see, however, where an injustice might be done a freshly-calved cow in a one-day test, where too many points were allowed for days in milk. But as our correspondent points out that this was an oversight on the part of some one, there is not much to be gained by going into the matter. The broader and bigger question of conducting milk tests generally is of more importance and deserving of greater consideration.



A Substitute for Turnips

A very serious problem seems to be confronting Scottish farmers. For a few years back the turnip crop has not proved as valuable and as easy to grow as formerly. The growth of the turnip is becoming more precarious and uncertain at all stages of life. It has become increasingly difficult to get a regular and vigorous plant in the ground. For some reason or other the young plants seem to be more subject to insect pests and do not seem to thrive as well. Consequently, the farmer in most parts of Scotland is finding it more difficult every year to get even a fair turnip crop. On land rented at 20s. to 30s. per acre a well-manured, well-managed turnip crop cannot be raised for less than £7 per acre, so that if it is a partial failure a serious loss to the farmer must result.

Some suggest that turnips might be omitted altogether from the crop rotation. This is what is done in parts of Ayrshire, much of the land being laid down to grass after two grain crops in succession have been taken from it.