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all parties concerned. There is a growing demand for beef with all the "babiness" fed out of it, and it is an example of unparalleled tyranny for a Government to conspire with speculators for the purpose of forcing upon innocent consumers a commodity which they do not want, and which is prejudicial to their pockets and their health.

Barring the prizes, the free advertising, and the vanity for notoriety, the producer operates at a loss, and in order to make the thing a paying concern, he must now feed for several shows, and keep his animals stalled and stuffed several years after the period of their babyhood has expired—just for the purpose of seeing what can be done, and to prove the cruciality of the butcher's block.

How does the matter now stand from the block's standpoint? A few butchers who feed the "society" position of the community, sometimes make a profit by effecting sales at prices far beyond the intrinsic worth of the article; while a larger number of the vain-glorious type, with a keen eye for business, trade in their cruel and ruinous profession for the purpose of widening their notoriety for enterprise. Ald. Frankland, in his speech at the opening of the recent Government Fat Stock Show, uttered one of the keenest satires we have ever heard when he remarked to the effect that the exhibits were grand, just only too good. This thought points out the degrading effect of overdoing good things. All this has arisen from adopting a false cry. If it had been cried that the consumer's stomach was the crucial test, overdoing would have been impossible, and we could at the same time, "see just what could be done."

A cry is necessary in order to drown the plaintive voice of reason and true inwardness. Business competition and ambition are the base of the whole fabric. In times of keen competition, there is an active demand for farmers to come into our towns and cities for the purpose of spending their surplus earnings—especially during the season when money is a drag in their pockets. The merchants invest liberally in an enthusiasm of some sort, hoping to make a large percentage on their voluntary outlay. If the concern turns out to be a success, all the citizens of the corporation are taxed for its support, and finally a tax is levied on the ratepayers of the whole Province to aggrandize a few business people in a few localities. Government officials spring up whose "biz. it is to enthuse." All this is done for the benefit of agriculture, and for the purpose of giving the poor farmer as good a chance in the struggle for existence as the rich, and an equal share in the prosperity of his grand and glorious country.

Fat or Lean?

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* severely criticises the moral tendency of the Chicago Fat Stock Show, points out how the wants of the consumer have been neglected, and how the demand for certain breeds arises from the determination of their champions to beat all competitors, thereby receiving the greater share of free advertising—not from the intrinsic merits of those breeds. These facts would be bad enough, even granting that the judgment of the judges were sound, but when it is considered how many fine breeds are being

ruined, and how appallingly untrustworthy those prizes and awards are, then the course pursued by the *ADVOCATE* with reference to fat stock shows will be viewed in its true light. The correspondent says:

The awards went, for the three-year olds, to the Polled Angus; for the two, to the grade Hereford, and for the yearling, to the Sussex full blood. The Hereford also got the grand sweepstakes, which many thought should have gone to the Sussex, and perhaps would, had it not been for the objection of "baby beef." The meat on block, as a whole, was superior to the show of last year, in that tallow predominated less. Still, the meat would have been better with half the tallow and double the amount of lean. Of all the carcasses, there was only one that showed the right proportion of fat and lean, and that was of the Sussex steer with the shrinkage of 90 days' quarantine upon him. Perhaps the large development of lean in the Sussex meat is due to peculiarities of race, but more likely to the different character of the fattening ration, on the other side. Perhaps no more important or significant fact was made public in the whole course of the show than this striking exhibition of lean. Certainly there was none of more interest to the consumer, unless it be another that Mr. Gillett, some time since, learning the peculiar merits of the Sussex beef, has ordered an importation of thirty head of full bloods, male and female, for his own use. To the consumer, the slightly proportion of fat and lean of the Sussex was at the same time a revelation and a lesson, giving him to know and understand that there are breeds of cattle that, on being long fed and high fed, develop into something more than vast masses of tallow. Or, if this is denied, and it is claimed that all breeds are alike in this particular, then it is made plain that the Sussex have been fed and fattened on different rations, and that when other breeds are served with them, the results will be similar. In a few words, the case of Ohio Belle last year, and that of the Sussex steer this year, have taught the public that high feeding need not reasonably result in an undue proportion of tallow, and when, in future fat stock shows, consumers are given twelve hours of daylight in place of two hours of gas-light to view the prize meat on the butcher's block, they will make awards so decisive that breeders and feeders will be likely to heed them, as all are apt to do when we hear from the court of last resort.

Provincial Fat Stock Show.

The third annual Provincial Fat Stock Show was held at Woodstock, Dec. 9-11, under the auspices of the Agriculture and Arts' Association and the County of Oxford Fat Stock Club, Mr. E. W. Chambers being President of the committees of the united Associations. The spacious skating rink was fitted out and decorated specially for the occasion. The list contained 160 entries, including cattle, sheep and hogs, which completely filled the shed without overcrowding.

Whether regarded from the number of spectators or the character of the exhibits, the show was a grand success—due mainly to the energy and public spirit of farmers of Oxford County and the citizens of Woodstock. The number of visitors from remoter parts also contributed largely to its success. The exhibit of dressed carcasses of poultry was fine, though not large. When the excellent character of the judges is added to the other features, it may be safely asserted that the show was the finest of its kind ever held in the Province.

The judges of cattle were Ald. Frankland, Toronto; W. Nanceval, Ingersoll, and W. Dodson, London. Of sheep—E. B. Morgan, Horace Chisholm, and W. J. Anderson. Of pigs—

James Mayne, J. Boyne and J. Snell. Of poultry—W. H. Doel and Wm. McNeil.

The best sweepstake steer of any age or breed—prize \$40—was awarded to H. and J. Groff, and best female—prize \$30—to J. and R. McQueen. The best car lot of 8 fat cattle, any age, sex or breed—prize \$30—was awarded to J. K. James, Woodstock. "Red Duke," owned by Messrs. McQueen, took the silver cup, valued at \$100, given by the Shorthorn breeders for the best fat Shorthorn steer or cow of any age. In sheep the sweepstakes for the best wether of any age or breed (\$15) were taken by J. Rutherford; best ewe, \$10, by John Kelly, jr. In hogs of any age, the sweepstakes (\$15) were won by G. Denoon, Milton, Ont.

Some of the best steers were sold at 10c per pound live weight, and some sales of sheep were effected at 4 cents.

Who are our Live-Stock Educators?

If the block be the final judge of the prime steer, we are curious to learn why a trio of judges is not considered complete unless it consists of a breeder, a feeder, and a butcher. This question has become especially practical since the system of judging by ballot has been introduced. The butcher, according to the theory, being the best or final judge of the block capabilities of the steer, he could, under the system of consultation with his fellow judges, not only point out the defects of the steer, but also the defects in the judgment of his associates. But in the ballot system, no whispering being allowed, the two judges, acknowledged by the theory to be the inferior, may outvote the butcher or superior judge, and the probabilities therefore are that the decision will be erroneous. If the block be the crucial test, then the butcher must be the crucial judge, and it follows, especially under the ballot system, that all the judges should be butchers.

Let us examine how the educating process is carried out in natural practice. The butcher purchases say three steers from the feeder or drover. He tells him that this steer is worth so much, that one so much more, and the other so much less. He gives his reason for these variations, all the animals being possibly of the same size and weight, and the ordinary farmer may not be able to detect any difference. The feeders now learn what the butcher wants, and when they purchase from the farmer or breeder, they educate him in the same way. The feeder soon finds out what stamp of stores will produce the most suitable primes for the butcher, and when purchasing from the farmers, he soon teaches them how to breed for the block. We thus see that the farmer is the pupil of the feeder, and the feeder the pupil of the butcher. We never see the farmer or the feeder teaching the butcher. The feeder is the monitor, as it were. This is a natural system of education for adults, and any government which adopts a forced system should be called upon to explain its advantages.

But what we want to ask is this: How can it be explained that those qualified teachers in the show ring can give less justice than one teacher aided by his monitor and the monitor's pupil? When this can be explained to us, then we will uphold the existing system of judging, in preference to the appointment of a trio of butchers. Our live-stock magnates thus