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EDITORIAL.

The Privileges of the Press.

The incident referred to in the introduction to the Toronto Exhibition report, in which the disposition of the chairman of the breeding classes of the horse department, to deny the usual privileges to the agricultural press, was criticised, brings up the question of granting ample time and freedom to reviewers of the show to closely inspect the exhibits in the ring after the judges have made their awards. This privilege has hitherto been granted freely at Canada's greatest live-stock show, as it is at our great Winter fairs, and has been at International and World's fairs held in the United States, a privilege which, so far as we are aware, has not been abused by accredited press representatives, and one that is essential to an intelligent review, comparison or criticism of the exhibits and the judging. The press is the only public medium by which information regarding the exhibits at these shows can be disseminated and carried to the many thousands of more or less interested farmers throughout the country, and its reports serve to increase interest in and attendance at future events of the same sort, and are read with avidity by the public throughout the length and breadth of the land, and beyond the boundaries of the Dominion.

An intelligent, critical review without close inspection is an impossibility, and if attempted is liable to do injustice to exhibitors and to the judges, who, from their privileges, are in a much better position to inspect at close range, and carefully compare and weigh the merits and demerits of the exhibits than are those outside the ring, who are apt to run away with wrong impressions, due to insufficient inspection and to unduly animadvert upon the work of the judges.

It is but just to state that our belief is that the disposition to exclude the press representatives from the stock rings at Toronto has not been due to any personal or professional prejudice on the part of the directorate towards accredited agricultural press men, but has arisen from complaints of exhibitors that too many persons are admitted to the judging ring who are not acknowledged or regarded as authorized press representatives, and that others who do not claim to be such are also admitted and allowed to mix up with the judges in the ring. While there may be grounds for this complaint, we must say that it has always appeared to us, at least, a left-handed compliment to the judges to imply that such association can have any influence upon their work, yet, in order to allay any such feeling and to avoid every appearance of evil, the Superintendent should be clothed with authority to admit no exhibitor not leading an animal in the competition. Good taste and the desire to claim no special favor would seem to suggest the propriety of seeking only to be on the same plane as other exhibitors, and the observance of this rule would make less difficult the privileges of the press, and at the same time more free the position of the chairman of the committee to extend the courtesy of the ring to distinguished visitors from a distance, a privilege which is commonly acknowledged and granted at such functions, and to which, we fancy, few, if any, would object.

All Aboard for the Dominion Fair!

A week hence the Dominion Fair will open for ten days at New Westminster, and will demonstrate to visitors from East and South the possibilities of the Pacific Province in the way of stock-raising and fruit-growing, lumbering and fishing—right on the spot where such activities are carried on. The effect will be that many who have thought that balmy breezes, mild climate and fruit are to be found only south of the international boundary, will have indisputable evidence that in Canada one can get any kind of healthful climate wherein it will be pleasant to make a home. Canadians should first study Canada before tramping in foreign lands. Britishers should first explore British possessions before bothering with passports to alien shores. In both cases wonder and delight will be the feeling of those who cross the Rockies and drop down into the Royal City on the mighty Fraser, that river known far and near as the habitat of the salmon. The railways offer reasonable fares and stop-over privileges, and the opportunity is not one to be missed. Pack your grips for New Westminster!

The Renting Problem.

Instances are not wanting of farmers leasing their lands, stock and implements on a profit-sharing basis, only to find that the tenant does not fully appreciate the conditions of the lease. The trouble generally is that the tenant fails to attach sufficient significance to the part which capital plays in the arrangement. He loses sight of the fact that the farm represents the accumulated earnings of the proprietor for several years, and begins to think in small circles. He reasons that on the year's operations, the proprietor, who does no work on the farm, should not be entitled to so large a percentage of the profits as he, the tenant, who does all the work, and soon he either neglects his work or cancels his agreement. It is the renewal in the mind of the tenant of that perpetual conflict between capital and labor. The situation would seldom arise if men would attach more importance to the value of a comfortable home and a "sure thing," and be less infatuated with the desire to make money "in lumps." By this we do not wish to divert the attention of the young men of the country from the possibilities of accumulating wealth by the increasing value of lands, but we would like to impress upon them that, when they rent a farm on shares, their first duty and best energy is to make that farm a success. Let renters buy land if they wish, but never let their personal business affairs interfere with the obligations they owe their business partners.

John A. Howland, writing in a Chicago Sunday paper, gives an illustration of the unsatisfactory system of renting farms, as it came to his notice. He says: "I know a man who has a farm worth \$26,000, which for ten years he has been letting out to tenants. He has had the place stocked with the best dairy equipment possible, and in letting out the place has exacted of the tenant that he purchase one-half the stock and the equipment, the tenant and owner dividing equally on the profits. Here is one of the best possible examples of a profit-sharing scheme, but from the point of view of a man who might reasonably expect a 5 per cent. income on the value of his farm, the whole scheme has been a failure. He finds that, in the eyes of most of his tenants, the mere idea that the tenant is compelled to share profit is at once the stumbling block to the tenant's efforts. The tenant overlooks that he has had the use of land worth

\$26,000, and that without the land he could do nothing, also he forgets that he has invested in only half the equipment necessary to running the farm in the best manner possible. It is the idea that profits must be divided at all that discourages this labor, where in all logic the scheme was for its encouragement."

It may seem strange that, in most cases, the first steps toward the violation of the agreement should be taken by the tenant, and at first glance might suggest that the proprietor had got the better part of the bargain, and therefore had no reason to object. This, however, we believe, is the wrong premises. We incline to think that, as the tenant is usually the younger man, he is the more ambitious to get along, and eventually hits upon a scheme which he thinks will give him greater advantage than the profit-sharing system, while, on the other hand, the proprietor, having passed the time of life's greatest activities, is content with normal progress, and has learned to make haste slowly.

The Telephone is "Welcome" in Farm Homes.

One of the inventions of modern times most welcome on the farm is the telephone, putting that manufactory unequalled for making citizens into touch with the world outside, and, therefore, convenient to markets, professional aid, and other homes.

Being a thing in such universal demand, there is a probability of, under the guise of municipal or Government ownership, a public utility being made a source of revenue and a field for the political grafter. The theory of Government ownership is ideal, but is based on false premises, such having arisen through lack of foresight, or common honesty in the past on the part of legislators. The control of public utilities has been, in a great measure, lost, either by incompetence or downright dishonesty on the part of legislators, who, being at this late date discovered by the public, now seek to reinstate themselves in popular favor by drawing a red herring across the track, in the shape of Government or municipal ownership. Had legislators done their duty at the time, all public utilities would now be controlled either by keeping down the cost to the individual or by getting from the utilities a revenue which would reduce the burden of taxation.

We have in Canada a few remarkable instances of the failure of the admirable theory of Government or municipal ownership when tested by practice. In the Intercolonial Railway, which is well known and acknowledged by all politicians as a haven for party workers, and in occasional municipal-owned electric lights and telephone plants, where the light is weak and the 'phone service poor—a case, to use a paradox, of paying too dear for cheapness. There is no doubt but that public utilities should be controlled by the people, so as to prevent the levying of excessive rates, and it is to be hoped that future legislation will take that form, rather than by Government ownership, which, when uncovered in all its nakedness, is really political ownership for one small section of the public, namely, the professional politicians of the party in power—the fellows who want jobs.

In Glasgow municipality-owned institutions, telephone and street car lines are working well as far as the average person can tell by using such utilities, but it will be remembered that a prominent Glasgow man specifically warned Chicago people against following the lead of the Scottish city, on the ground of politics. It is