

# The Farming World

For Farmers and Stockmen

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## The Chief Factor in Dairying.

**O**NE of the strong points brought out at the Western Dairymen's meeting last week, a report of which appears elsewhere in this issue, was the important place which the patron occupies in our cooperative dairy system. This was most forcibly emphasized by the Hon. Mr. Dryden in his address on Wednesday evening and also by Mr. G. C. Creelman, Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes. While the patron is a most important factor he is also the most difficult one to reach and instruct as to what his duties are in connection with the care of milk. Not that he is less susceptible to intelligent and definite instruction than any other individual, but that he is so isolated as to be beyond the reach of the methods ordinarily adopted in reaching the maker and the other factors in the concern. But this is the situation, and as good cheese cannot be made without good milk the patron must receive attention, no matter how great the cost. While it is all important that proper facilities should be provided for curing the cheese and carrying it in a perfect condition to the consumer, the real foundation must not be neglected. We are therefore very glad to see that both the Eastern and Western Associations are taking active means to reach the patron. It is a large task, but definite, persistent methods with this object in view will accomplish much.

## The Auction Sales.

Farmers and others desiring to procure good stock for breeding purposes should keep in mind the coming auction sales to be held at Guelph and Ottawa next month. This method of buying and selling pure bred stock was successfully launched last year at the points named. That it has proven a most effective way of bringing buyer and seller together, and of disposing of the surplus stock to advantage was shown last February, when 259 animals, including cattle and swine, realized the grand total of \$17,962.50.

But these sales will not run themselves. There must be active cooperation on the part of the breeder, who has good stock to sell and of the one who desires to obtain good stock. Last year's experience, however, showed that to a very large degree both buyers and sellers were willing to cooperate in making these sales a success. And the prospects for the coming sales are on the whole as good and in several respects better than they were a year ago, when

the first sales were being advertised. We learn that a number of the leading breeders are saving their best animals for these sales. It seems certain, therefore, that a much better class of animals will be offered this year than last.

It is hardly necessary to enumerate the advantages to be derived from these sales. If they serve no other purpose than to advertise Canadian pure bred stock abroad they will pay well for the expense and time put upon them. Last year there were several buyers from a distance and among them one from the United States, who bought largely of the animals put up at auction. There is no reason why the number of outside buyers should not be largely increased this year. These sales should be well advertised in the United States and in all the provinces of the Dominion.

However, because there are buyers from a distance should be no reason for our own farmers and breeders to refrain from buying. It is not in the best interests of the live stock trade of this country that all the best animals should be bought by outsiders. The more of these higher priced animals we can keep in the country the better. In this connection read the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Dryden before the live stock judging class at Guelph, published elsewhere in this issue. He lays special stress upon the necessity of using well bred bulls for improving the grade cattle of the country. This is good advice and the auction sales supply a splendid opportunity for obtaining good animals at market prices for use on the grade stock. If one farmer feels that he cannot afford the price let a few farmers in his locality combine and purchase a good bull for use on their herds. In this way the best blood will be introduced and the average quality of the cattle of the neighborhood greatly improved.

## The Beef Carcass Awards at Guelph.

Though the Ontario Winter Fair of 1901 is a thing of the past, it is still being talked of in many localities. We recently received a communication from a subscriber, who was a large exhibitor at the last show, in which he expresses some dissatisfaction with the management and with the manner of awarding prizes in the beef carcass competition. In regard to the block test, he says:

"The block test at Guelph seemed out of harmony with the judging of the live animal. If it is a Fat Stock Show why not carry it out to the letter. If it is to be a Lean Stock Show, that can be

found in some barnyards on every concession in the Province, no need to go to Guelph to see it. I would like if you would have this discussed. I think the dead to the live weight should have something to do with it. How do they do in Chicago? I see that every first prize animal has to go on the block test there."

As we pointed out some weeks ago, the judging in some of the carcass competitions was out of harmony with the judging of the animal when alive. If the judging of an animal alive and in carcass form does not harmonize to some extent at least, the educational value of this part of the show is very much lessened. The farmer or producer can only be educated as to the right type of finished beef animal to produce by the appearance of the live animal. But if the ideal set up alive is not the right one when killed, all this educational work is without avail. In the bacon hog classes this lack of harmony does not exist and the animal taking a first place when alive is pretty sure to stand well up to the front in the carcass competition. But it has taken time to reach this position. And so, perhaps, time will be required to properly adjust the judging as between the live and dead animal in the beef classes. Still there is no need of the entire lack of harmony that was shown in the live and dead cattle class at Guelph last month. Either the live or the carcass ideal was wrong. The judges in these classes should get together before another show and come to some more definite understanding as to the type of animal alive and dressed best suited to market requirements. If this is not done we are afraid the beef carcass feature of this most successful show will drop behind.

Our correspondent objects also to the heavy entrance fees charged exhibitors in the beef cattle classes. He instances the case of a medal valued at \$5 being given by a citizen of Guelph for the best grade steer bred and fed in the county of Wellington for which an entrance fee of \$2 was charged for each entry. We do not know whether there is a real grievance in this or not. If the entrance fee seems out of proportion to the results obtained and is imposing a hardship on the exhibitor, it certainly should be lowered. We have every confidence in the management, however, and only draw attention to this matter in order that, if necessary, the question may be fully considered by them. We would be glad to hear from other exhibitors on the points raised.