

Nebraska Corn Show

Those who are intending to prepare an exhibit for the Winter Corn Show in January, 1904, and who are not familiar with the manner in which the corn was judged at the last exhibit will be interested in knowing upon what basis the awards are made.

Ten ears of corn constitute an exhibit. Any variety is eligible to entry provided a standard has been adopted for it by the Corn Improvers' association. Varieties for which standards have already been adopted may be obtained from the secretary. Anyone wishing to enter a variety not in this list may have a standard set by sending five typical ears to the secretary not later than one week before the exhibit opens. The standard for a variety prescribes the shape, length and circumference of ear, the color, shape and indentation of kernel; the number of rows on the ear; the size of the space between rows; the character of the butt and tip of the ear; the size of shank; size of cob; the color of the cob; the per cent of corn on the ear.

Each exhibit is judged in accordance with the standard for the variety it represents. If it scores over seventy per cent by this standard it participates in the premium money, the amount drawn depending upon its score above seventy. It does not therefore come directly in competition with any other corn, but with the standard for the variety.

An exhibitor can enter only one exhibit of any variety. He therefore has only one chance at the premium money for each variety entered. There is no reason therefore why anyone having corn capable of scoring over seventy per cent should not draw some premium money. The largest corn grower in the state cannot well grow more than a half dozen varieties which will limit his entries to six.

Each exhibit is judged by the following scale of points: Uniformity of exhibit, 5 points; trueness to type, 10 points; shape of ear, 5 points; color of ear, 10 points; market condition, 5 points; tip of ear, 10 points; butt of ear, 5 points; kernel uniformity, 5 points; kernel shape, 5 points; length of ear, 10 points; circumference of ear, 5 points; space between rows, 5 points; proportion of corn to cob, 20 points; total, 100 points.

Let everyone prepare to raise the best corn his farm has ever produced to win premiums at the Nebraska Corn Show next January and to represent him and Nebraska at the St. Louis World's fair next year. Remember this is the last chance to get ready for St. Louis.

T. L. LYON, Sec.

Lincoln, Neb.

Cost of Irrigation Water Rights

Some of the Washington dispatches have called attention to the expected increase in cost of irrigation of the western lands which the interior department designated the other day for the first construction under the national irrigation law, pointing out that this cost is double certain estimates made during the discussion of the irrigation bill, which were placed at \$5 an acre. Five dollars would undoubtedly be a low average to place upon all the reclaimable western lands. But whether the irrigation works which the government is to construct in the west will cost at the rate of \$5 an acre or \$15 or \$20 an acre is a matter which need in nowise interfere with the prosecution of the irrigation constructions under the national irrigation law passed by congress last summer. In every case the cost of putting water upon the land is to be borne by the settler and the farmer who lives upon the land and will use the water. The government will be repaid for every dollar expended. The question then is simply, whether land with water upon it will be taken by settlers at ten dollars or fifteen dollars an acre or any other sum which it may cost to reclaim it. When it is realized that irrigated farms and orchards in the west are worth from four to one hundred times fifteen dollars an acre, and that the crudest irrigation farms produce annually more than \$15 an acre, it is not believed that there will be any dearth of applicants ready and eager to go upon the land which the government reclaims. Under the irrigation act payment can be made on exceedingly easy terms—ten equal annual installments.

The cost of putting water on western land may range all the way from four to fifty dollars an acre. Some of the simpler propositions require only the digging of a big ditch in order to secure water for thousands of acres; others necessitate the building of immense masonry dams and the construction of very expensive canals and headworks. It is probable that

eventually the waters of some of the great rivers of the northwestern states—the Columbia and the Snake—may be taken out at a very large cost per acre, yet fruit lands in the Yakima valley of Washington today are bringing in an annual revenue of as high as \$200 an acre. Of course it would not pay to spend \$50 an acre in reclaiming lands to be used for grazing or feeding purposes.

This question of the cost of irrigation opens up the subject of the area which it is possible to reclaim in the arid west. Hydrographer Newell of the geological survey stated this matter concisely the other day. He said: "The reclaimable area of the arid region must remain an indefinite quantity for many years to come. No man can say definitely how many acres are capable of ultimate reclamation. To illustrate, suppose a large spring is situated in such a location—so far from arable land—that it would cost a hundred dollars an acre to lead it on to that land—its own one hundred miles removed from any railroad or other improvement; the water would never be utilized for irrigation. Suppose on the other hand that a railroad should be projected through the desert and a flourishing town be started on this land, then it would pay to spend the hundred dollars an acre for the improvement.

"Projects which are not today feasible because of their expense may in ten years, as the country settles up, become very profitable ones."

GUY E. MITCHELL.

Not Enough Taxes

Editor Independent: In your remarks on the taxation of the steel corporation (April 16) you say the corporation pays two mills on the dollar, while a quarter section in Lancaster county will pay \$35 a year in state, county and school district taxes. I live a little way east of Lancaster county and have to pay \$30 more on the top of the \$35 for the same kind of taxes and the same amount of land. WM. YOUNG.

Palmyra, Neb.
(The figures as stated for Lancaster county are substantially correct. "Eighties" here are taxed from \$14 to \$17.50. "Quarters" from \$28 to \$35. Mr. Young's quarter is highly improved—and it may be that taxation is heavier in Otoe. An inspection of the returns shows that on the average Otoe lands are assessed \$2 per acre higher than in Richardson. Mr. Young's figures make the showing all the greater against the steel trust.—Associate Editor.)

First Shipment by Farmers

Harvard, Neb., April 21.—The Harvard Co-operative Grain and Live Stock company is today shipping its first car of grain, a load of wheat for one of its wealthy farmer members. The board of directors has organized and elected the following officers: President, M. F. Harrington; vice president, M. L. Hartman; secretary, Jesse F. Eller; treasurer, William Schwank. The company has incorporated with \$10,000 capital and will build an elevator and do a general buying business when fully established, or will ship for any individual, though not a member.—Omaha Bee.

ROAST PIG

An Oklahoma correspondent objects to Mr. Freeland's recent article because he believes people should write and use "language so common people can understand without hunting up seventeen dictionaries." A little searching through the dictionary is a good thing—but, of course, it is quite possible to talk over the heads of your audience. He specially objects to "laissez faire" (which means "Let alone; suffer to have its own way, or take its natural course") and to "sphinx" (which is a word taken from mythology and now means a person or something whose character or intentions are difficult to find out. The Greek Sphinx propounded a riddle to the Thebans and killed all who failed to guess it. Finally Oedipus solved it and the Sphinx very properly killed herself.)

Mr. Freeland's allusion to roast pig referred to Charles Lamb's story about the Chinese who kept pigs as sacred pets, but knew nothing of using their flesh. One day a house burned down quite accidentally and one of the youngsters in searching the ruins came upon his beloved pig's remains and attempted to rescue it. In doing so the burnt flesh stuck to his fingers and he promptly put them into his mouth to ease the pain. The taste was delicious. He communicated his discovery to others—and a wave of house burning set in! Finally the Chinese found they could roast a pig without burning down a whole house—and our Oklahoma correspondent can make the application himself.

MEASURING VALUE

Mr. Shera Takes Exception to Portions of Mr. DeHart's Article on "The Value of Money"

Editor Independent: I have been reading the articles contributed to your columns by Mr. De Hart, and his loose way of discussing the subject of money is wearisome, not to say distressing. His conclusions are usually correct, but he is prone to the habit of making unreasonable assertions and then qualifying and explaining away what he has said.

For an instance, in The Independent of April 9, in his discussion on "The Value of Money," he said: "Money is a measure of value, not a standard of value. It is a 'measure,' because it determines the level of prices, and thereby determines not only the relative value of any two commodities, but the value of every commodity with respect to money and the value of money with respect to every commodity. In other words, we get a ratio of exchange by means of money—its quantity."

Now no careful writer who understands the subject will assert that money is a measure of value. Still less should anyone who contributes to populist papers be guilty of such a blunder.

The idea of a measure of value has given rise to the saying, "A measure of length must have length, a measure of capacity must have capacity, a measure of weight must have weight, and a measure of value must have value." But with a little thought one can readily see how erroneous and misleading such a conclusion is. Take a simple illustration: Here is a pile of wheat; here, also, is a box, the contents of which the government calls a bushel. Give a man the measure and he can go to the pile of wheat and measure its bulk. Here is a pound weight; a man can take it and measure the weight of the wheat. Here is a foot rule; a man can take it and measure the height and length and breadth of the pile. The bushel box, the pound weight and the foot rule are measures, and bulk, and weight, and height, breadth and length are intrinsic qualities of the pile of wheat. But there is a standard silver dollar—good money as Mr. De Hart will allow; give a man the dollar and let him measure the value of the wheat. He can't do it, for value is not an inherent attribute of the wheat as bulk, weight, height, length and breadth are, and there can be no such thing as a measure of it. Value is the estimation people make of the relative desirability of commodities and is a psychological thing, and money is a device for expressing value.

I want to take this occasion to recommend to you and the readers of The Independent the best book on the subject of money that has ever been published. It is "Social Struggles," by Dr. J. P. Phillips of New Haven, Conn. In a recent issue Mr. Bartley advised you to read it, and you dismissed it with the impatient assertion that you could not afford to read every book that is called to your notice. But "Social Struggles" should not only gain your perusal, but your enthusiastic praise. Its name was an unfortunate selection, for it should have been "Principles of Economics." It is carefully written by a master of the subject and is so clear and logical, and yet so conservative that it will commend itself to all honest, thoughtful persons who may have become confused by the bewildering prolixity of financial discussion. It is a large book of 573 pages, printed in the highest excellence of the bookmaker's art. It should be among the selections you have made for your circulating library of political economy. It contains a chapter entitled, "Is It a Crime to Own Land?" which is the best refutation of the single tax that I have ever read. This suggested to me the fitness of Mr. Phillips for reviewing the arguments used in your forthcoming Single Tax Edition in your issue of June 11.

HIRAM SHERA.

Upland, Cal.
(The Independent will be glad to use, in its issue of June 11, such review of the articles in our Henry George Edition as Mr. Phillips may write. Neither edition, however, is intended as a final determination of the matter—what The Independent desires is to get at the truth. If the single tax is the best solution, then our energies should be directed toward securing for it a trial. If it will not bear the test of reason, or some of its claims are overstated, this should be made clear. The two editions are not to be forums for acrimonious debates, but rather an inquiry into the merits of the solution offered by Henry George.

As to "Social Struggles," it may be

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We have the only absolute successful and best treatment for itching, bleeding, protruding piles and other rectal diseases. We know it, because we have cured thousands of men and women during the last twenty years and can produce testimonials as proof.

A pile operation by knife, injection of poisonous acids, crushing clamps, ligature or cauterizing with red hot irons in raw sores is filled with death danger and never cures.

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WITNESSES.—We will give names on request.
Case 1207.—This is to certify that the Hermit Rectal Home Treatment can, will and does cure any case of piles. I have had piles since 1861, and have tried dozens of remedies, but none helped me until I received your treatment. (Cognac, Kan.)

Case 1205.—Did not expect a cure in such a short time. (Romalisa, N. Y.)

Case 1202.—I am happy to inform you I am entirely cured. (Bryson, Miss.)

Case 1176.—Although I have doubted all along I now know your treatment cured me. (Randolph, Ill.)

Case 1174.—After using your treatment two months am perfectly cured. Was treated by doctors for three years. No relief. (Chicago, Ills.)

Case 1144.—I am well, and your treatment cured me. (Leland, Oregon.)

Case 1154.—Your treatment acted like a charm. I am entirely cured. (Chicago, Ill.)

Case 1153.—Six years of pile pain, paid one doctor \$75.00 for a miserable failure, but your treatment cured me at once. (Chicago, Ill.)

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HARRY E. MOORES, G. A. P. D.
Omaha, Neb.

a very good book; but, without the least impatience, the editor repeats that he cannot procure and read every book on political economy which may be recommended by readers of The Independent. Perhaps later, however, he will make an exception in favor of this book.—Associate Editor.)

Fuller particulars of the "horse dinner" show that was given in the second story of the swellest restaurant in New York city, the same one where Little Egypt danced in the "altogether" for the deflection of another dinner party of New York millionaires. The horses were taken up in the passenger elevator. Billings, who gave the dinner, is president of the People's Gas, Light and Coke company of Chicago, and shows to what uses the money extracted from the people of Chicago through franchises and extortionate prices charged for public services is put. Under populism, Billings would never have had a franchise, the people of Chicago would have paid about half what they have paid for gas and there would have been no "horse dinner" at Sherry's.