

A BIG EDUCATIONAL COURSE ON WHEELS

The better farming trains operated over the lines of the railways in the Prairie Provinces, appear to be meeting with a considerable measure of success and provincial agricultural authorities are convinced that the work so carried on will result in the spread of better agricultural practices throughout the country.

When such a lecture train completed its itinerary over the lines of the Canadian Northern in Saskatchewan recently, a compilation of statistics showed that, in all, 10,464 persons had boarded the cars at the various stopping places, thirty-four in number, and that of this total, approximately forty-five hundred were men, thirty-five hundred women and the remainder children. The weather was unfavorable most of the time. At some of the points when lectures were given rain fell continually and a great many people were unable to attend on account of the conditions of the roads. The Saskatchewan Government representatives expressed themselves as greatly pleased with the attention given the train under the circumstances.

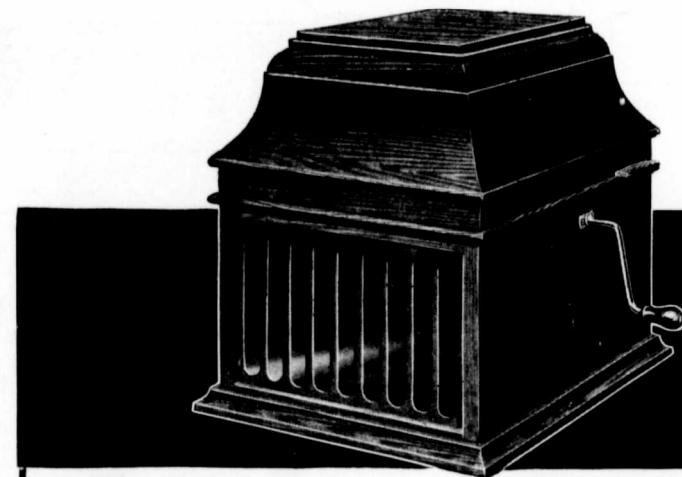
The Canadian Northern Railway train was made up of standard sleeping and dining cars, a nursing car, household science car, model farm car, crop production car, boy's and girl's car, colonist car, refrigerator car, and a water car. Designation streamers were attached to the outside of the cars with lettering in letters large enough to be easily read, and when the train stopped at a station there was no confusion among the people. The children gravitated naturally to the "Boy's and Girl's" car, where lantern slides of various birds and insects were thrown on the screen and their good and bad habits explained. The older people, bent on more serious matters, were accordingly enabled to give close attention to the lectures in the other cars.

The "Crop Production Car" contained samples, mounted, of flax, oats, alfalfa, western rye grass, wheat, millet, peas, barley, bromegrass and clover. There were also illustrations of alfalfa in rows, of alfalfa seed cutting, alfalfa for seed, classes of barley, sample of corn, classes of wheat. There also were descriptive charts illustrative of experiments of cropping fallowed land during a dry year as against the plowing fallow when land is free from grass and other perennial plants; early as against late fall cultivation; effect of harrowing on yield of wheat; wheat yields on stubble land; alfalfa for forage and seed; influence of tillage on 1914 wheat yields; light of seeding concerning heavy and light seedling in wet and dry seasons; effect of packing for second crop of wheat; effect of harrowing on fall-cultivated land, and charts showing relative increase in production under different soil cultivation.

The Model Farm car, contained section of barn showing method of bracing, sheep barn, cow stall, pig pen, split log drag, fence, home-made cattle stanchion, photos of all kinds of stock and mountings of soil products. This car also contained the poultry section, showing model of portable poultry house, photographs of the different kinds of fowls, Saskatchewan trap nest, fattening crate, feed hopper for use on range; oats sprouter, hen coop, Cornell trap nest, Newmaine trap nest, result of experiments showing the effect of water glass and lime water on egg preservation, complete surgical outfit for operating on fowls and sample of proper food for fowls. In addition, the literature was in this car, and printed matter pertaining to agriculture was freely distributed.

The Nursery Car was equipped with sand boxes, toys and made up beds. This car was also a valuable addition to the train; mothers were able to leave their children in car and attend lectures without the usual annoyance.

The chief speakers included: The Hon. W. W. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture, Regina; A. F. Mantle, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Regina; W. W. Thompson, Director Co-Operative Organization Department, Agriculture,



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Regina; Professor John Bracken, Charge Field Husbandry, Agricultural College, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; F. H. Reed, Ex. Representative Dom. Seed Branch, Regina; A. Phillips, Representing Poultry Husbandry, Department of Agriculture, Rosthern, Saskatchewan; P. Stewart, District Representative, Ontario Department of Agriculture, Kenora, Ont.; Mrs. Jean Archibald, Professor Household Science, Saskatoon, and Miss E. Thompson, Lecturer on care of children, Saskatoon.

The lectures usually required three hours in each town, and longer in some cases, owing to the late arrival of some of the visitors. The usual procedure was to keep the car closed for a few minutes after arrival, and until the people had gathered, when the cars would be opened and the audience distributed.

Mr. Reed was generally the first speaker and lectured on the crop production and other points of field husbandry, followed by Prof. Bracken who dealt with soil cultivation. Mr. Mooney lectured on the eradication of obnoxious weeds. The Hon. Mr. Motherwell dealt with general farming conditions. Mr. Stewart spoke on stock-raising and dairying and at several points gave demonstrations of milk testing. Mr. A. Fawcett looked after the Model Farm Car, and answered questions regarding building matters. Mr. Phillips lectured on poultry raising and egg preservation and at the principal points gave demonstrations of the killing, plucking and preparing of chickens for market. Mrs. Archibald lectured on Household Science and gave demonstrations in cooking.

Only a Dog

"Only a dog!"—And yet a dog is the truest of all friends, the most forgiving, the most generous.

He will go with his master anywhere, and if fairly treated is always happiest at his side.

He would live with him in poverty and suffering rather than in luxury without him.

Whether of high breeding, and his value counted by the hundreds, or the weakest half-starved cur that roams the city's streets, the faithful, loving heart is the same.

You cannot give the poor outcast the least kindness—a crust of bread, a dipper of water, even a pat and a kind word—without awaking a gratitude that brightens his eye and changes his whole aspect.

Mrs. Mary Johnson.