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WINNIPEG, MAN.

Six Thousand Dollars in Prizes for Alfalfa Growing

Saskatchewan is clearing the floor for a great contest. The event will not be spectacular, but its effect will be greater than that of any previous movement that has taken place in the agricultural development of the west. It is no less than a provincial competition in the growing of alfalfa, a leguminous crop which will both enrich the soil in nitrogen and humus and furnish a highly nitrogenous food for all classes of live stock. This movement was inaugurated at the Agricultural Societies' Convention held at Regina in January last, when it was decided that a prize of \$1000 would be awarded for the best ten-acre field of alfalfa in Saskatchewan in 1914. The editor of a magazine at that time offered a cash prize of \$250, and others also volunteered assistance. More recently, William McKenzie, president of the Canadian Northern Railway, offered to provide the required \$1000, and needless to say his offer was accepted immediately. But the competition has outgrown the first plan; ten times \$1000 would not be more than sufficient to finance the competition as it is now planned to conduct it.

The Agricultural Societies' Convention favored the plan of having the competition conducted by a committee appointed by the minister of agriculture. The committee named by the minister consists of the dean of the college of agriculture for Saskatchewan, the superintendent of the experimental farm, Indian Head, and the president of the Grenfell agricultural society with the director of extension work in the college of agriculture, as secretary. The convenor of the committee, Dean Rutherford, asked for a meeting of the committee to prepare rules to govern the contest and this was held at Indian Head on April 11th.

The approved plan provides for a division of the province into four parts. Prizes will be offered for the six best fields of alfalfa in each of the districts. The prizes will be as follows: First, \$500; second, \$400; third, \$300; fourth, \$200; fifth, \$100; sixth, \$75. The first prize

field in each of the four districts will be scored for the championship which will consist of a magnificent silver trophy.

All contestants must be paid up members of the nearest agricultural society. Entry must be made before August 1, 1913, and the crop must have been sown not later than the season of 1912. The entry fee has been fixed at the nominal sum of \$5.00 and must accompany the entry which is to be sent to the director of extension work previous to the date specified. The field of alfalfa must consist of not less than ten acres, but if the size of the plot exceeds the minimum the whole field will be scored. No artificially irrigated crop will be eligible for entry in the competition.

A full list of the rules governing the competition are being published for the guidance of interested persons and will be supplied free on application to the secretary of the committee, F. Hedley Auld, Regina. There has already been shown a marked desire on the part of the agricultural papers and others interested in agricultural development to assist in financing this great competition. The committee decided, however, that while it would gladly accept cash contributions and give due credit for such donations, it could not accept special prizes of any kind to be given for a specified purpose, as the changing of conditions would still further complicate the judging which is not an easy matter in a contest so large as this will be.

Co-operative Movement in Japan

Dr. T. Nishigaki, formerly secretary of the Japanese Central Co-operative Union, has kindly supplied us with the following information: The co-operative movement in Japan is by no means new; for generations co-operative granaries have been in existence, which have pro-

vided the poor with seed and grain, but especially with rice, in times of famine, for which they paid interest. Societies called "Ko" or "Muzin" have also been in operation for many years, and are a modest form of credit society, the members of which pay for their shares by instalments, and from which they can borrow money at a fixed rate of interest. Many thousands of such societies now exist in Japan. The chief industry of the country is agriculture, and consequently rural societies preponderate. In 1891 the first co-operative act was carried through by Count Shanagawa, Minister for Home Affairs, but this only dealt with credit societies. In 1899 the law was revised to include co-operative societies of all kinds, and came into force in September, 1900. According to this law, a co-operative society has the same legal rights as the individual, and is permitted to work on the following lines: (1) To assist its members in producing the required capital, and to help them to make the best use of their savings. (2) To sell the goods produced by its members, either as finished articles or to be worked up. (3) To purchase wholesale the raw material required by its members for the production of their wares or for consumption, and to retail to them. (4) To work up the unfinished goods made by its members, and to lend them the necessary tools for their work. A co-operative society is not limited to one of these forms of co-operation only; it is free to fulfil one or all of these functions. At the end of 1900 there were 21 Japanese societies working on the lines laid down by the new law, of which 13 were credit societies. At the end of June, 1909, there were no less than 5,149 societies, 1,864 of them being credit societies. 194 societies undertook to carry out all the above-mentioned functions, 744 were purely productive societies and the remainder united two or three lines of work. In 1903, 571 societies had a membership of 45,131; and in 1907, 1,623 societies had 151,123 members. The average number of members to each society in 1903 was 79, rising in 1907 to 93. The paid up capital amounted in 1907 to an average of about £148 per society, or 31/- per member. The reserve fund averaged £30 per society

and 3/- per member; the loans £240 or 50/-; the savings deposits about £132, or 31/- per member. 1,623 societies, with 151,123 members sent in their statistical returns in 1907, of which 121,136, or 80.2 per cent. were employed in agriculture; 10,475, or 6.9 per cent. were traders; 4.7 per cent. artisans; and 3,028 or 2 per cent. fishermen.—The Scottish Co-oper-

We All Know 'Em

There is a man in our town, his like is hardly known,
 He never drinks, nor smokes, nor swears,
 and always stays at home;
 He never chews, nor lies, nor fibs, nor does a thing that's wrong.
 That's why I write this little verse, to remember him in song—
 He's paralyzed!

There is another man in town who also is all right,
 His wife can always tell you where you'll find him any night;
 He never flirts, praised, nor fawned upon a maiden fair,
 Won't even look at beauty, nor at wealth of golden hair—
 He's blind!

There's a man who lives on Cayhill street, won't listen to a thing,
 The gossips may keep gossiping until they make things ring;
 Won't go to hear good preaching, nor music, nor the band,
 Won't cross the street if Sembrich were singing at the "Grand,"
 He's deaf.

There also was a man in town who combines them all above,
 And went a step beyond them—wouldn't even fall in love;
 He was a model man for sure, as you may well suspect,
 Belonged to a peculiar class—just one of the Elect—
 He's dead.

The best way to get even with a fellow is not to.

The heart makes fewer mistakes than the head.