

## Canadian Farm Affairs.

### WINNIPEG'S GREAT FAIR.

The 9th annual Winnipeg Industrial exhibition opened under a combination of circumstances that augured well for success. The directors were fortunate enough to have the governor-general open the exhibition, and the presence of his excellency added to the size of the attendance. The weather was all that could be desired, with bright clear skies and sun, the heat of which was tempered by one of those invigorating breezes which abound so plentifully in the prairie provinces. The exhibition was better in every respect than those of former years as regards numbers and attractiveness of exhibits and quality of special attractions. It is hardly to be wondered at that the attendance broke all former records.

For a few weeks before the exhibition those interested in it felt very doubtful as to its success this year. Manitoba's wheat crop, it was admitted by all, would undoubtedly be a failure. A poor crop meant a scarcity of money, and with hard times prospects, farmers could hardly be expected to spend money in visiting the fair. It is true the wheat crop will be a poor one. A glance at the fields no doubt shows them to be in a great deal better condition than they were before the heavy rains in June, but a careful examination shows that the rain came too late, and that the grain will not head out to any such degree as at first looked for.

If the wheat crop is a failure in Manitoba, it does not necessarily follow that hard times will result, and the failure of the wheat crop does not mean what it did in former years. Farmers have engaged to a greater or less extent in mixed farming, stock raising, dairying, etc., as a visit to the Winnipeg fair clearly proves. This is very fortunate, for while the partial failure of the wheat crop may compel the disposal of some stock at lower prices than on usual occasions, the results will by no means be as serious as if wheat was the only agricultural product of the province. The bountiful crops of former years placed most of the farmers in a position to stand a low yield this year without serious results.—[T. R. Malone.

### FARM NOTES FROM ALBERTA.

A splendid show for a big crop presents itself in all parts of Alberta except where strips of destruction caused by hail in early July occur.

The Boden district and portions of the Dog Pound district were knocked out in the first round this year, hail seems to be about the worst enemy in the vicinity of Eagle Hill, also.

Winter wheat looks as if it was going to do well, around Olds. It was in blossom early in July, while spring wheat did not show a head.

Brome grass is making a most wonderful growth this season, owing to so much rain; mine cut 2 tons per acre. Western rye grass is also huge, standing 4 ft high July 1.

On our experiment plots we have some good examples of why it pays to know what kind of grain to sow, and when to sow it. As usual the first sowing of wheat is looking the best, while the third or last sowing of oats is best.

I have noticed during the past 7 yrs that oats sowed May 15-31 have invariably given best returns. I believe there are several reasons for this. One important to me is that it gives a chance to kill a good crop of weeds before the oats are sown; this year we destroyed two crops on all our oat ground. By doing this and then being very careful not to sow anything but oats, and good ones, well treated with fungicides, we have the best looking fields of oats we have ever had on this ranch. By this process of weed killing we also get the ground into a first class condition for retaining moisture should the season have been dry.

Early Dawn wheat seems to be a very tender sort; it was completely knocked out by a three-mile-wide hail storm. Red Fife did not appear to be damaged near as much. Hulless barley is just about ruined but headless seems to have stood the racket better than bearded.

Alfalfa is making a good stand this year; so is clover and blue grass.

Wild fruit is very plentiful this year and "tame" currants never hung so full of fruit.

Potatoes are growing very fast. Of

12 sorts planted May 24, Clark's No. 1 is ahead, with plenty of little sets, while the rest show nothing yet. Algoma's planted one month earlier, was but very little ahead in July of those planted May 24.

Celery is also making a splendid growth for this season of the year in this country. As many acres of prairie were turned over this year as has been during the past 4 years. This shows that more confidence is being placed in farming as a business, as the years go by. Another evidence is shown by the increasing number of settlers that have come to cast their lot with us.—[H. A. Briggs.

### ONTARIO FRUIT PROSPECTS

Regarding the fruit crop of 1900 in Ontario I think we may safely say that it is one of the most satisfactory that we have had for years. Apples set splendidly and just enough dropped to thin the crop and enable the tree to mature its fruit to a fine size. All through southern Ont the Baldwin and Greening are carrying a fine load of fruit, while Spy, Cranberry and some other varieties are thin. But the best of all is the fine sample. We do not remember having as clean, well-grown apples in 20 years as are now showing upon the trees for 1900. The lack of rain in May was a disguised blessing, for as a result scab could not germinate, and both leaf and fruit are in perfect condition. If ever our province had the opportunity to make a record for exporting fine apples, this season of 1900 is the very season to make that record.

Astrachan and Duchess are just now coloring, and the first ripe go off readily in the markets, though much inferior to the later pickings. Our custom is to gather them about twice a week as they color, for about three weeks, each time taking the finest colored samples. These are graded to uniform sizes in the packages.

Pears are a fair crop, but not much beyond the requirements of our own markets. Still the samples are so clean and healthy that there will be no culls and the whole will do us credit. The principal varieties are Giffard, d'Ete, Bartlett, Chalmers, Rose and Anjou. The last four are excellent for shipping to distant markets.

Plums are not very abundant so that we shall perhaps see high prices for this fruit.

Peaches are a fine crop and we expect low prices for our early clings, while better peaches from Ga are in our markets. But as soon as our Crawfords and Elbertas come in we shall have things all our own way, for the crop south of us will all be out of the great markets.

Grapes are only a fair crop, but the size of berry and bunch is unusually fine. Scarcely a sign of mildew has yet appeared. The Lindley is a great favorite with us, because it will carry so well and has so good a flavor. We are trying to export this variety to Great Britain, but have great prejudices to overcome. Their first taste of American grapes was with the Concord, and it carried so badly and was so broken when it arrived and withal had so poor a flavor compared with British hot-house grapes, that they classed all our varieties as worthless.—[L. Woolverton, Wentworth Co, Ont.

### GETTING AND KEEPING HELP.

If you intend hiring for the season do not put it off too long, for sometimes the men are nearly all taken on and you have no choice but have to take anyone that comes along. Some people make a mistake when hiring men by trying to beat them down below the average rate of wages, and then when the men find out they have been imposed on there is trouble.

Some people seem to think anything is good enough for the hired man. Treat your men fairly and you can generally depend on them treating you fairly. Give them as comfortable lodging as possible. Some say, "Oh the hay loft is good enough for the hired man." How would you like it yourself, on a hot night, with the horses stamping and pounding down below and the mosquitoes? Don't work the men all day and half the night, in your endeavors to get your money's worth out of them. Kindness in your manner toward the men has a great deal to do with your success in keeping them. Some men, I

know, will give you trouble, but these are generally lazy, shiftless fellows who are just trying to get the most money for the least work, and the sooner you bid them adieu the better.—[G. B. Brant Co, Ont.

### DOMINION AND PROVINCIAL.

St John, N B, the winter port of the Canadian Pacific railway, is up in arms because Dominion Minister Blair, who is managing the Intercolonial railway, which is a government road, intends to make the C P R a reasonable price for use of I C R lines. As the distance from Montreal to Boston is 342 and to St John 481 miles, the C P R threatens to make Boston its winter port.

The highest price ever offered for stock raised in Manitoba is \$3000, recently made for three head cattle shown at the Winnipeg fair by ex-Premier Greenway.

Offerings of cheese on the Ont boards have been heavy and prices holding steadily above 10c, as high as 10½c being very frequently touched for eastern and 11c for western makes.

A Scotch lumberman has secured 800 square miles of Newfoundland forests, chiefly pine, spruce and fir. From 40 to 80 million feet of lumber will be shipped each year. About 2000 men will be employed and wages of \$500,000 annually disbursed.

A very large development in the trade between Nova Scotia and the island of Trinidad is looked for by Sec'y Chipman of the N S b'd of agri, if the proposed reciprocity treaty is made. With a development of markets in the West Indies, considerable amounts of butter and live stock could undoubtedly be sold from the maritime provinces. The fast line steamship service between the provinces and West Indies will do much to place Canadian produce on the market in the best of condition.

Dominion revenues last July were \$3,807,000, an increase of 579,000 over July, '99. Expenditures were 2,618,000, an increase of 265,000 over July, '99, or a net increase of 314,000.

The Newfoundland legislature adjourned Aug 13; a general election will be ordered for late Oct.

### AFFAIRS OF THE DAY.

Farmers ought to learn something of what power they have by the experience of the past 3 yrs. At that time farmers were in very straitened circumstances, which depressed every branch of business. The letter move in wheat placed several millions in farmers' hands, which brought a boom to every industry in the country. Trusts and monopolists took advantage of it and said we want the benefits of your prosperity, and made a rise in everything the farmer needs. Plants were run day and night all last year, hardly stopping to make repairs, supposing the farmer would readily absorb all their output, yet at the same time depressed the price of farm products. What has been the result? Let us canvass the situation. Farmers as a general thing all agreed to buy as little as possible and have stuck to it. As to making wire, nails and farm supplies, where is the price of the product of iron to-day? The rise in iron was the prime cause of the rise in everything where iron was a factor. The arrogance of all the dupes of trusts and money monopoly has come down a long way; nearly every manufacturing plant has let off one-half to two-thirds of their help. Thousands of manufactured machines will be carried over. Thus it should be plain to every farmer that by combining their strength, by truly co-operating, they can control even trusts and monopolies. The events of the past 3 yrs should open the eyes of every farmer and cause him to fall in line by joining farm organizations and conduct his own business. It is said necessity is the mother of invention. Adversity often opens the door to prosperity. The farmer not adversity sometimes to set him to thinking, to use his brain as well as muscle, to use his enthusiasm to some purpose, for enthusiasm without organization is of no more use than steam without an engine.—[R. I. H.

The English co-operative union is composed of 1651 co-operative societies with 1,729,276 members. Last year sales amounted to \$249,000,000 and the profits of \$28,000,000 were divided among the members. The investments of the societies are valued at \$67,000,000.

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