

### New Superintendent of Fairs and Institutes

The general management of the Agricultural Societies of Manitoba has been transferred from the agricultural college to the department of agriculture. For a number of years Principal Black, has superintended the work of the fairs and institutes, but pressure of duties in connection with the agricultural college compels him to relinquish as much outside educational work as possible. The deputy minister of agriculture, J. J. Golden, has taken up the executive direction of these institutes.

### Windthorst Seed Fair

Windthorst Agricultural Society, though only a few months old, held a most successful seed fair. Entries were numerous, and the quality high. Judging was done by A. F. Mantle, D. Morrison, Dr. Elliott and T. W. Wright. The prize-winners included Fisher Bros., W. Grylls, Philip Leech, J. B. Fuchs, F. J. Dash, F. S. Reider, J. A. Cook, A. P. Davis, W. E. Carey, R. M. Sutherland, A. Sagenschneider, R. F. Gray, R. Hawkins, Robert Fisher, P. Fieldler and A. Schindler. George Jaegle exhibited home-grown tobacco. E. H. Battely is secretary.

### Wheat Crop of 1909

The wheat crop of Canada for 1909 is estimated by the census and statistics branch of the department of agriculture to be 166,744,000 bushels, an increase of 54,310,000 bushels over 1908. The average yield per acre was 21.51 bushels, as compared with 17 bushels in the previous year. The average price was 84 4-5 cents, as compared with 81 1-10 cents, and the total value was \$141,320,000, as compared with \$91,228,000 in 1908.

The estimate places the wheat yield of the prairie provinces for last year at 147,482,000 bushels, an increase of 55,629,000 bushels.

### Railway Commission Order

Orders were issued recently by the Dominion Railway Commission requiring the railway companies of the prairie provinces to provide, within six months' time, suitable buildings for the accommodation of passengers and freight at all flag stations where annual earnings total \$15,000, of which at least \$2,000 must be on inbound freight, and also requiring the appointment of temporary agents to receive and forward grain during the shipping season from September 15 to December 31, each year at all points in the west where the shipments last year reached 50,000 bushels.

### Centennial Postponement

At a meeting of the shareholders of Canada's International Exposition, proposed for Winnipeg, held recently in that city it was decided that the exposition should be held in 1913 instead of 1912. It has been contended by a good many of those who have been closely connected with exposition work that more time would be needed for preparation than would be available if the exposition were held in 1912. Since it has become apparent that the exposition is to be even larger than was anticipated, the need for more time has been made clear to practically all of the exposition executive.

### Dairy and Poultry Meetings

Meetings for the discussion of dairying and poultry raising have been arranged to be held in Saskatchewan at the following points on the dates specified: Paynton, Feb. 1; Lashburn, Feb. 2; Marshall, Feb. 3; Northminster, Feb. 4; Lloydminster, Feb. 5; Stony, Creek, Feb. 7; Mount Forest, Feb. 8; Clapton, Feb. 9; Birch Hills, Feb. 10; Spry, Feb. 11; Yankton, Feb. 12; Rathwell, Feb. 14; Central Park, Feb. 15; Naisberry, Feb. 16; Goldburn Valley, Feb. 17; Willow Hill, Feb. 18; Hanover, Feb. 19; Valparaiso, Feb. 21; Norwood, Feb. 22; Campbellville, Feb. 23. All meetings will be held at 2 p. m. The speakers will be W. A. Wilson, superintendent of dairying, who has supervision of government creameries and poultry fattening stations in Saskatchewan, and William Newman, also a practical man of several years' experience in Eastern Canada and thoroughly familiar with conditions in Saskatchewan.

Questions affecting poultry raising and dairying will be fully and clearly presented, and fullest opportunity for the audience to take part in the discussion will be given. These are profitable meetings for both women and men.

### B. C. Dairymen to Meet

The annual convention of the British Columbia Dairymen's Association and the British Columbia Stock Breeders' Association will be held at Victoria, February 3rd and 4th. The program for the meetings has just been issued and many addresses are to be delivered which promise to be of a very practical and instructive nature. The speakers listed are specialists along the particular line on which they are asked to speak.

### Alberta Short Courses in Agriculture

The department of agriculture for Alberta has decided to hold short courses for the farmers and farmers' sons during the coming winter months. These will be held at Lethbridge, February 8 to 19; Olds, February 21 to March 5; Vegreville, March 7 to 19. Instruction will be given in live-stock, dairying, agronomy and poultry-raising. Two cars of selected live-stock will be used for demonstration purposes and instruction given on the subjects of breeding, feeding, care and management of stock. Likewise in dairying, agronomy and poultry-raising all phases of the subjects will be taught and demonstration work given along all lines. It is the efforts of the department to make these courses as practical and instructive as possible.

Those who have been engaged as instructors include John Gardhouse, of Highfield, Ont.; W. F. Stevens, of Huntingdon, Que.; Duncan Anderson, of Orillia, Ont.; H. A. Craig and A. W. Foley.

### B. C. Agricultural Associations

On January 31st a meeting of delegates from each agricultural association in British Columbia is to be held in Victoria. The object is to form an agricultural association to govern, to a certain extent, the smaller fall fairs and to set the dates in circuits, so that the department can send expert judges to each show free of charge to the exhibition.

On the 1st and 2nd of February the Central Farmers' Institute meeting is to be held. On the 3rd of February the British Columbia Dairymen's Association meets; on the 4th the British Columbia Stock Breeders' Association, and on the 5th the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association hold their meetings at Victoria.

Special rates have been issued (single first-class fare) from all points in the province to Victoria and return, good for twelve days, and large attendances are anticipated. Any information regarding these meetings will be furnished by R. W. Hodson, live-stock commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Victoria, B. C.

### Potato Crop in Ireland

The average yield of the potato crop in Ireland in 1909 is estimated at 5.5 tons per statute acre, as against 5.4 tons in 1908, and 4.4 tons for the ten year period—1899-1908. The acreage of the crop in 1909 amounted to 579,799 acres, as against 587,144 acres in 1908, a decrease of 7,345 acres, and the total produce of the crop in 1909 is estimated at 3,202,819 tons, as against 3,199,678 tons in 1908. The quality is, on the whole, very good. The returns show that in most of the southern counties the crop exceeds that of last year. Thus the average rate for the province of Leinster is 5.4 tons in 1909 per statute acre, as against 4.9 tons in 1908. Similarly in Munster the average is 5.4 tons in 1909 as against 4.7 tons in 1908. In Connaught also the yield is 5.5 tons in 1909, as against 5.2 tons in 1908. On the other hand, in Ulster, taking the whole province, the average rate is lower than last year, viz., 5.7 tons in 1909, as against 6.2 tons in 1908. The returns indicate that in many of the northern counties the yield of sound tubers this season was more than usually uneven. It should be noted that the estimates furnished represent in all cases only the estimated yields of sound tubers.

### Alberta Local Improvements Convention

The Alberta Local Improvement Association, composed largely of farmers from different parts of the province, met in convention recently at Calgary. This association has been in existence but a short time in Alberta but its importance is evidenced from the subjects discussed and the scope of the resolutions as passed by the convention. These resolutions were passed as recommendations to be presented to the Government in formulating and reconstructing laws regarding the various municipalities of the province.

Over fifty delegates were in attendance, T. H. Hammond, of Pincher Creek, president of the associa-

tion, directing the procedure of the meeting. Throughout the convention a great deal of discussion was indulged in by numerous delegates, the following resolutions being finally adopted:

"That this convention is in favor of government aid to roads, being based according to the actual annual expenditure of the districts. That the minimum rate of taxation be three cents, and that the maximum rate be ten cents per acre, and that in the event of any council considering a rate of five cents an acre insufficient to meet current expenses the rate may be increased by a majority vote at the next annual convention.

"That local improvement districts or any division thereof, be empowered to borrow money on debenture on the following plan, viz., a maximum of twenty cents per acre; to be repaid in yearly payments of one cent per acre yearly and interest thereon. The loan to be subject to a majority vote of the rate-payers.

"That councils of all local improvement districts have power to deal with deviations in roads, where cost of same does not exceed fifty dollars.

"That this convention recommend that the rate of pay laid down in the local improvement district ordinance be no longer observed but be left in the hands of the several councils.

"That the local improvement ordinances be so amended as to allow the council of any district, if they so wish to impose a tax not exceeding one cent an acre for the purchase of poison to be put out in a manner suitable for the destruction of gophers.

"That upon the request of a council the government send a road engineer to inspect and give the grades and estimates of the cost of a given piece of road.

"That the large local improvement districts be asked to organize. When such is not practicable owing to the paucity of ratepayers the said land be attached to the neighboring district."

### Split-Log Drag for Roads

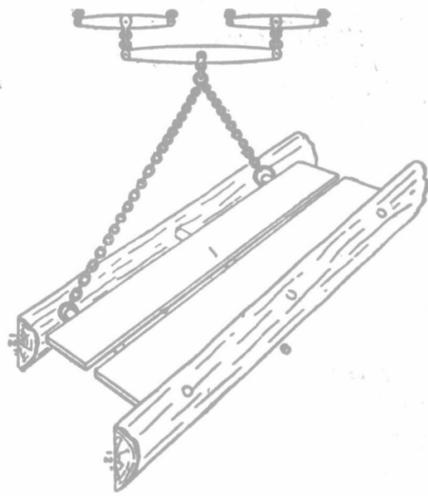
Before the season of 1910 is ended it is to be hoped that the split-log drag competition in Manitoba, for which the FARMER'S ADVOCATE has given \$100 to be offered as prizes, will have done much to show what benefit can be done by judicious use of a simple and inexpensive implement. In a similar competition held in Ontario in 1907 there were sixty-three entries—forty west of Toronto and twenty-three in the eastern part of the province. The keen spirit of rivalry was secondary to the improvement of the roads. The prevailing feeling was that an improved road and the local introduction of the drag formed a satisfactory reward for work done.

Reporting on the work of the drag W. A. McLean, engineer of highways for the province who made the awards, said:

"The split-log drag is an exceptionally useful implement for the repair and maintenance of earth roads. The writer, after close observation during the past summer, has been greatly impressed with its value. That the merits of the split-log drag have been so fully and widely demonstrated, and that so much benefit is to be anticipated, should afford gratification to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE."

#### DESCRIPTION OF DRAG

What is the split-log drag? To make one is almost more simple than to describe it, for the implement is simplicity itself. A log from five to



THE SPLIT LOG DRAG.

The Farmer's Advocate has offered \$100 to the Manitoba Good Roads Association to be offered as prizes for a competition in the use of this simple and inexpensive implement on clay roads.