



What Western Fairs Do For Exhibitors



There is no doubt that glory has something to do with the presence of some exhibits at Western shows, but the average man reflects that 'kudos' is a very poor substitute for food and raiment, without which we cannot hope to be content, therefore a study of the prize-monies hung up by our largest Western shows will be interesting to our readers, as showing not only where prizes may be won but where advertising, which is one of the main reasons for exhibiting, may be had. Not all the monies hung up are won at the shows, some are guilty of padding the lists, putting in classes, which the slightest reflection or knowledge of the country tributary would show, would be bare of entries, and therefore no call on the society funds. Up to the present governments have been slack in the matter of grants to shows, in some cases the lists have been accepted at their face value and grants made on that basis, an erroneous method and one that tends to debase a community or agricultural society. It is well known that some shows, use the annual grants to pay for their grounds and buildings, instead of distributing those monies among the farmers of the country, for the purposes for which such grants are given, namely the improvement of agriculture. Grants to agricultural societies are given solely for the improvement of agriculture and if used for any other purpose, should be withheld.

peg received \$1,112.50 (D.S.H.B. Ass'n \$750, D.H.B. Ass'n \$50, D.H.-F. Ass'n \$50, D. Ayrshire \$25, Red Polls \$37.50, D. Swine Breeders \$200); Brandon \$422.50 (D. Clydesdale \$100, Aberdeen Angus (Chicago) \$200, Red Polls \$37.50, D. Swine Breeders \$85); Regina \$320 (D.S.H. Ass'n \$300, D.H.B. Ass'n \$20); Calgary \$475 (D.S.H.B. Ass'n \$400, D.H.B. Ass'n \$50, D.H.-F. Ass'n \$25); New Westminster \$275 (D.S.H.B. Ass'n \$200, D.H.-F. Ass'n \$50, Dom. Ayrshire Ass'n \$25). All these breed society grants are given on the understanding that the fair association to whom such are granted will give at least an equal amount in cash to the particular breed section. Winnipeg and Regina are the only fairs that observe that agreement, and if those delinquent lose part or whole of their grant, they only have themselves to blame. When the total grants to some of the fairs are considered, one is justified in expecting the prize list to be worth more money. (Pet stock, cut flowers, ladies' work and fine arts have not been included in any case). Take for example the two Alberta shows and the smaller Manitoba shows, the latter have larger grants than the former, yet the Alberta shows with a twenty-five cent entrance at the gate smother both Neepawa and Regina, both of which need to increase their prize list fifty per cent. to get into the front rank, and give according to their income from grants. The prize lists reveal some

privileges, which may fairly be questioned as legitimate, for example, gambling and liquor permits and immoral shows, although no permits are granted ostensibly for such purposes. Then too a source of income is obtained as gate receipts, a fluctuating quantity depending partly on the weather and pretty largely on the reputation the fair has for giving value for the money in clean shows, straight races, comfort and ease in seeing the show and a good list of worthy exhibits. The gate money at many western shows has been increased of late years; at Brandon and Killarney men pay fifty cents, women twenty-five, on the coast no sex favoritism is shown, it's 'four bits' to one and all, while at Winnipeg and the other shows of the prairie, the quarter is the 'open sesame.' As will be seen Winnipeg, leads in the amount of prize money given for agriculture; New Westminster ranks second, and leads in her encouragement to horticulture; Brandon is a good third, ranking second in encouragement to horsemen and third to the cattlemen. Edmonton promises to have the big fair of the prairie country outside of Winnipeg, if present indications and a liberal prize list are any indication of the trend of thought of the directors. The lists are worth some study and no doubt improvement can be obtained, even in the big fairs, which are supposed to be more or less models for the less aspiring but useful local shows.

MANITOBA

Fair	Gate Charge	HORSES		Total	Shorthorns	CATTLE		Total	Sheep	Swine	Poultry	Grain	Fruit, Vegetables, Bees	Dairy & Domestic	Totals	Rank
		Heavy	Light			Other	Beef Breeds									
WINNIPEG.....	25 cents.....	1793	2633	4426	2000	1003	1408	4411	1080	1279	1786	780	389	1000	15141.00	1
BRANDON.....	50 c. men	1512	1010	2622	665	949	920	2534	300	487	857.25	407.50	122.50	275	7605.25	3
KILLARNEY ^a	25 c. women	781	894	1675	257	468	315	1040	179	356	243	18	85.75	174.25	3771.00	6
NEEPAWA ^a	25 c. women	846	607	1453	209	285	225	719	118	184	198	22	86.25	108.50	2888.75	8

BRITISH COLUMBIA

NEW WESTMINSTER.....	50 cents.....	986	647	1633	382	1244.50	1448	3074.50	1053	1002	933.75	128	2306.50	567	10697.75	2
VICTORIA.....	50 cents.....	733.50	667.50	1400	209	895	828.50	1932.50	776	765	604.50	307.50	924.75	—	6710.25	4

ALBERTA

EDMONTON.....	25 cents.....	1298	677	1975	563	722	1070	2355	164	750	517	320	108.25	122.25	6311.50	5
CALGARY ^b	25 cents.....	507	807	1314	775	258	114	1147	211	101	267	125	45.50	214	3424.50	7

SASKATCHEWAN

REGINA ^b	25 cents.....	504	321	825	661	135	192	988	24.50	173	83.50	113.25	109.25	91	2407.50	9
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^a These associations hold a Winter Seed and Grain Fair. ^b These cities have a combination Spring Show and Sale.

The figures submitted in the accompanying table show the relative standings of the various Western fairs and also throw light on the encouragement given, in a measure, by private enterprise to agriculture. In the comparison, the western provinces rank as follows, Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. The first named is the smallest of the provinces yet outranks all the others, even her rivals, Saskatchewan and Alberta, in the great field of agriculture. Had British Columbia been found at the foot of the list surprise need not have been felt, because agriculture cannot in that province claim to be the leading industry.

The figures serve to show also the abundant need for work on the part of the departments of agriculture in the two newest provinces of Canada, not only in fostering good shows, but in avoiding waste of effort and money by preventing the formation of shows, except in places, under conditions and with support necessary to make such successful. The table, which was compiled from prize lists of this year, will show the departments of each fair bringing out the largest exhibit; in addition, it shows the relative ratings of the shows. In the matter of aid from the public treasury, there is considerable difference, the two Alberta fairs get \$1000 each from the provincial government, the others getting about the same. The B. C. has no special grants, exceeding those previous years. In Manitoba, the two smaller shows get \$500 each from the province and considerable aid from their respective towns and municipalities. Edmonton, approximately ten to fifteen thousand dollars. Brandon is supposed to get \$1000 from the New Westminster seven thousand dollars. Winnipeg gets grants from the federal government.

incongruities, e.g., Edmonton gives more for grade Jerseys than for purebreds, and gives money for grade bulls equal in amount to that given for purebred Jersey bulls; at the northern town the Holstein men have a grievance, the prize list is inadequate to this valuable dairy breed, and the prizes for the bacon purebreds are not uniform. Neepawa gives more money for ponies than for Shetlands, and might well put the Standard-breds and roadsters together, as at the Industrial, and cut out the young stallion. This fair would improve its list by offering more than \$5 for a grade herd, by having a milk yield competition, by increasing the money all round and by cutting down the sections for purebred sheep, making it up by offering for grade flocks, similar to the schedule introduced at the 1906 Industrial. New Westminster offers a prize to the parents bringing out the largest family to the show, the prize being one hundred and twenty-five bars of soap. Victoria also encourages large families.

The bringing out of a good exhibit depends quite largely on the money that is hung up, the equitable arrangement of the prize list and the qualifications of the judges employed.

The larger fairs have a certain field in which it is folly for the smaller fry to attempt to compete, especially with reference to 'attractions.' The amount of money that a fair can afford to hang up depends on its income, because while fairs are not usually granted incorporation or grants, if they pay dividends, yet they must pay their way. The operating expenses are no small matter, and the outgo for the average larger fair for horse races is often out of all proportion to the income derived therefrom. Attractions, such as the circus, are very expensive and in the modern day, there are sources of income from

Under the Harvest's Spell.

The whole country lies under the spell of the master chief Work. The revolutionists in Russia throw bombs and are mown down by the militia; China is reported to be hastily assuming western civilization, Bryan and Hearst are plying the plausible public with excuses to be made president or governor, Cuba has a little revolutionary pot boiling. Grain speculators are frantically struggling to keep wheat where there will be money in it for export and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association haul their conventional caboose up to our very doors and hurl admonitions and fiscal truths (?) at us as though we had never given the tariff a thought. All these things are of course of world wide importance, but they melt into insignificance before the vital question as to when "———'s outfit is going to move up this way." There are about one half million people on the great Canadian prairie whose waking and sleeping thought is wheat for six days in the week and on Sunday, wheat, the weather and post office matter. And what of it? The crop is turning out well, the weather is fine and at present the harvest of 1906 has the promise of being the largest and best ever reaped and of getting to market with less trouble than any hitherto marketed. To many this means a distinct step forward, to others a final cap sheaf to their life's strenuous efforts and to others the first stepping stone to competency, to usefulness and to a full citizenship. What wonder then that the tide of the rush of wheat should drown all other sounds for a time?

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Now is the bachelor farmer a nuisance to his married neighbors. He needs all sorts of help to tide him over the threshers' visit.