

The Competition in Standing Fields of Seed Grain.

SASKATCHEWAN.

The judges in the competitions in standing fields of seed grain met at Indian Head on the 15th inst. for final instructions and a preliminary practice in scoring up fields before beginning at those in the competition they will judge. On account of the rain only fields were examined the first day but the judges remained over and spent the whole of the next in scoring.

The standard used in judging the plots is much the same this year as last with the exception that more emphasis will be placed on freedom from weeds, especially the more noxious ones, whose seeds are hard to remove from the grain. Great stress is being laid upon the necessity of fields being pure and true to name. Those containing mixed varieties will be scored heavily on this account and if they are badly mixed, not awarded a prize at all, as by doing so, one of the main objects of the competition, viz: that of encouraging the production of a pure unmixed variety, would be defeated. Smut is also discriminated against as formerly.

The following is a copy of the score card that will be used:—

Suitability of variety.....	10
Freedom from weeds.....	25
Freedom from other varieties and other kinds of grain.....	20
Freedom from attack from smut, rust or insects.....	15
Apparent yield considering vigor of growth and uniformity, size of head, stiffness of straw, thickness of stand and state of maturity.....	30
Total.....	100

THE JUDGES AND THEIR DISTRICTS.

The following is a list of the judges with the competitions they are judging: Creelman, Stoughton, Carlyle—James McMullen, Moosomin; Oxbow, Alameda—A. J. Quigley, Sintaluta; Estevan, Maple Creek, Moose Jaw—Thos. R. Brown, Regina; Saltcoats, Churchbridge—J. H. Fraser, Edgeley; Moosomin, Gainsboro, Carnduff—C. Steuck, Abernethy; Rosthern, Duck Lake—Sgt. Major Coles, Moffat; Lloydminster, Lashburn—Harris MacFayden, Regina; N. Battleford, Battleford, Saskatoon—A. P. Crisp, Moosomin; Prince Albert, Kinistone—J. A. Brown, Spy Hill; Radisson, Quill Lake, Togo—A. E. Wilson, Indian Head; Strassburg, Abernethy, Stockholm—L. G. Bell, S. Qu'Appelle; Ft. Qu'Appelle, S. Qu'Appelle, Indian Head—A. Switzer, Grenfell; Sintaluta, Wolseley—F. J. Dash, Hillesden; Grenfell, Broadview—F. W. Green, Moose Jaw; Wapella, Fairmeade—Ira B. Brown, Estevan.

In Manitoba the agricultural societies are giving less attention to these field grain competitions than is being given in Saskatchewan. Up to date only two societies have signified their intention of conducting them, viz., Morden and Minnedosa. E. D. Eddy, B.S.A., of the Seed Department, Winnipeg, and Mr. S. A. Bedford, of Brandon, are judging such as have entered. It is unfortunate that fewer Manitoba societies are in a position to take up this work. Field crops are the backbone of agriculture in this country and we cannot do too much to improve them. The agricultural society came into existence for just such work as this. Its function is to raise the status of agriculture and of the industries associated with agriculture in the district which it serves, and there is no way in which it can serve these interests better or perform this function so well, as it can by lending support to such features of its work as this. We cannot emphasize too strongly the value, the importance, the necessity of better farming methods. We cannot think of any means by which this emphasis can be given, in which this end attained more quickly, thoroughly, and permanently, than it can be through the medium of these field grain competitions. The score card by which the awards are made is in itself conclusive proof that these competitions cannot be carried on year after year without effecting improvement in the methods of the men who follow them up, without bettering unmeasurably grain growing conditions all over the province. We cannot have too many of them. We seriously doubt if we have not this year altogether too few.

The Kansas department of agriculture has sent Prof. Teneike to Alberta to report upon the advisability of using Kansas Red wheat grown in Alberta for seed in the central States. The professor after investigating has sent several samples back to Kansas to be sown this fall as the beginning of a thorough experiment with Alberta seed.

M. A. C. Advisory Board.

The election of the members of the advisory board of the Manitoba Agricultural College by the representatives of the agricultural societies resulted in the choice of the following: Walter James, Rosser; W. H. Dyer, Minnedosa, Pelig Smith, Indianford and Jas. Duthie, Hartney. Mr. Duthie is the only new name on the board, having taken the place of Col. Hosme of Virden.

British Machinery for Canada.

Mr. Claude A. Lowe, representative engineer for Messrs. Robey & Co. Ltd., the well-known manufacturers of traction engines and light agricultural tractors, of Lincoln, England, paid us a visit last week and is now touring the West. Mr. Lowe is investigating thoroughly the requirements upon the farms of Western Canada, and we were pleased to learn that he has been most favorably impressed with the country; he says "We have successfully introduced our traction engines and light tractors into almost every country in the world and why cannot we do so in Canada?" We also say, why not? There is room and plenty; there is the demand; we speak the same language and fly the same flag—Come.

MARKETS

Predictions of frost early last week with the report of temperatures in some districts below freezing, had a tendency to force prices up in the optional market, with a corresponding advance in export prices. The maturing of the harvest all over the West was seriously retarded during the week. There was some slight damage by frost both here and through the northern states but not serious enough to materially affect the wheat supply. Bull operators, however, in Winnipeg, Minneapolis and Chicago took advantage of the situation to force the market. In Winnipeg, on Wednesday, October wheat jumped 3½ cents, in less than an hour; in Chicago the advance was 3 cents and in Minneapolis 2½. Naturally, this big advance was reflected in the export trade, the demand in this quarter dropped, and wheat piled up to some extent at Port Arthur. The return of fine weather towards the close of the week, coupled with a weakening in the British markets, a discounting of the frost scares in Dakota, and good reports from the Argentine, caused a slight slump in prices here, with export demand more active. Present indications are that prevailing prices will be easily maintained. The market is strong with no apparent tendency toward a further decline. The wheat market just now is a weather market and so long as fine weather prevails wheat is going to stay about where it now is.

The first car of American spring wheat reached the Minneapolis market on Thursday and graded No. 2 Northern. There is a rumor from that quarter that speculators are preparing for an active bull campaign in which case prices might advance considerably. This, however, is unreliable. Perfect weather conditions for ripening will hold such a movement as this in check, and with seasonable temperatures and a general belief that danger from frost is past, will tend to hold the market normal.

Last week the actual movement of wheat through Winnipeg ran about five times the volume handled for the corresponding week last year, running from 103 to 188 cars per day, with an average for the same week last year of about 25. The highest price for cash wheat reported on the market during the week was 95, oats were quoted as high as 40 during the week and an average volume of business was done.

Prices are, for grain in store at the lakes: No. 1 Hard, 92c, No. 1 Nor. 91c, No. 2 Nor. 88c, No. 3 Nor. 85c. Futures are Sept. 94½c, Oct. 95½c, Dec. 91½c.

PRODUCE AND MILL FEEDS (WHOLESALE)

Bran, per ton.....	\$17.50 @ \$18.00
Shorts, per ton.....	18.50
Shorts, per ton.....	18.50
Chopped oats, per ton.....	27.00
Chopped barley, per ton.....	24.00
Chopped barley and oats, per ton.....	25.00
Oats, per bushel.....	40
Barley, per bushel.....	53
HAY baled per ton, in car lots.....	10.00 @ 11.00
POTATOES, new, per bushel.....	1.25

BUTTER—	
Fancy, fresh made creamery prints.....	23 @ 24
Boxes, 56 lbs.....	22
Boxes, 14 and 28 lbs.....	23
Fancy, dairy prints.....	20 @ 21
Dairy, in tubs.....	18 @ 19
CHEESE, Mimito a, new at Winnipeg.....	0 7 @ 10 1
Eggs, Manitoba fresh, f. o. b. Winnipeg subject to candling.....	17 1

LIVE STOCK.

During the week the receipts of live stock at the Winnipeg yards have been light. The bulk of the stuff coming forward is butcher cattle only. On Friday 24 cars came in. A rather light export business is being done. During the week about 60 loads were sent East. These cattle were mostly contracted for at the ranches and little actual selling was done. What were handled went at around 4 cents. Butchers' stock is selling from 2½ to 3½ cents with the demand rather slow and quality scraggy. The movement in sheep has been very slight. Very few were handled here. A number of cars passed through consigned to Port Arthur for fattening, but the local trade was nil. Prices run from \$6.00 to \$6.50. Hogs are in good demand but few coming forward, and not many of them grading first class; \$6.50 is the best selling price.

Export steers, off cars, \$4.10 to \$4.25; good \$3.90 to \$4.00; best butcher \$3.75; choice heifers \$3.50 to \$3.75; cows common \$2.75 to \$3.25; bulls \$2.50 to \$3.00. Sheep \$6.00 to \$6.50; lambs \$7.00 to \$7.50. Bacon hogs 150 to 200 lbs. \$6.50 to \$6.75; heavy \$5.50, roughs \$4.50.

TORONTO LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Export steers, \$4.75 to \$5.35; butchers cattle, \$4.75 to \$4.85; cows, \$2.50 to \$3.00; calves \$5.00 each. Sheep, \$4.50; lambs, \$5.50. Hogs, bacon \$6.80, fats and lights \$6.50. The trade in live stock at the Union Yards, Toronto, during the week has been brisk. There has been an active demand for exports for steers that would weigh around 1,300 or 1,400 pounds. Butchers' cattle held their own in price, with but few really first-class offerings. Hogs were in fair demand, sheep and lambs light.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Beeves, \$4.50 to \$5.00; prime steers, \$4.50 to \$7.00; cows, \$3.00 to \$4.50; heifers, \$3.00 to \$5.25; bulls, \$2.50 to \$5.00; calves, \$3.00 to \$7.50; stockers and feeders, \$2.50 to \$5.00. Hogs, choice, \$6.30 to \$6.45; heavies, \$6.00 to \$6.10; light, \$6.10 to \$6.25. Sheep, \$3.75 to \$6.25; lambs, \$6.00 to \$7.40.

Contents of this Issue.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Three-year-old Clydesdale Stallion Steward.....	1332
Purebred Clydesdale Mares.....	1333
Senior Yearling Shorthorn, Poplar Park Queen.....	1334
Perennial Sow Thistle; Annual Sow Thistle.....	
Couch Grass.....	1335
The Prize-Winning Ayrshire Herd at Regina Exhibition.....	1338
Shetland Mare and Foal at Winnipeg Exhibition.....	1350
A Pastoral Scene on Golden West Stock Farm.....	1356
"Chieftain" and "The Only Way".....	1359

EDITORIAL.

The Average Man and the Stock Raiser.....	1331
The Commercial Fingerboard.....	1331
The Cause of the Commercial Thumbscrew.....	1331
The Place of Theory in Farm Practice.....	1331
Items from an Address on Rural Education by Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, at Hillsboro, P. E. I.....	1332

HORSE.

Our Scottish Letter.....	1332
Credit Where Credit is due.....	1333
The Passing of a Great Sire.....	1333

STOCK.

The Danger from Strayed Dogs.....	1333
Another Aspect of Cattle Feeding.....	1334
The Part of Alfalfa in Hog Raising.....	1334

FARM.

Adding Value to the Barley Crops.....	1334
Some of our Most Pernicious Weeds.....	1335
Inspection of Traction Engine Boilers.....	1336
Stook or Stack Threshing.....	1337
Difference Between Portland and Rock Cement.....	1338

DAIRY.

Ease of Digestion a Factor in Feeding.....	1338
The Making of the Sweepstakes Butter.....	1338
Testing Cows.....	1338
Dairy Education Work in Saskatchewan.....	1338

HORTICULTURE AND FORESTRY.

Our Native Fruits.....	1339
Evergreens from the Prairie.....	1339

POULTRY.

An Ailing Flock.....	1340
A Disease in Incubator Chickens, and Suggestions as to Cause.....	1340

FIELD NOTES.

Events of the Week.....	1340
The Game Laws.....	1340
English Agricultural News.....	1341
The Local Fair: Its Use or Abuse and Betterment.....	1341
Things to Remember.....	1341
Homestead Entries Decreasing.....	1341
Saskatchewan Preparing Her Fuel supply.....	1341
Markets.....	1342
Home Journal.....	1343
Gossip.....	1349
Questions and Answers.....	1350