

THE WINNIPEG INDUSTRIAL FAIR.

The success of this Fair illustrates in a striking way the growth of our Western country. In seven years the number of entries has doubled and the number of persons attending has more than trebled. This is partly because of the pride which Manitobans, and especially the citizens of Winnipeg, take in the affair and partly, indeed largely, because of the good judgment shown in its conduct and the liberal enterprise with which attractions for all classes of the people have been provided.

We cannot go into particulars as to the various amusements, if indeed that were necessary, nor have we space enough to attempt a list of the field or garden products on exhibition. What we shall attempt is to show briefly the character of what may be termed commercial and industrial exhibits. The buildings of the Winnipeg Fair are numerous and creditable, the grand stand with its crowd is a surprising sight.

Let us look first into the main building, where exhibitors from Ontario and other eastern provinces vie with Manitoba concerns in handsome displays. Of metal goods the Brantford, Welland Vale, Massey-Harris and other Canadian bicycle factories have shows in various parts of it. The McClary Manufacturing company, of London and elsewhere, exhibits stoves, furnaces and tin-ware. So have Clare Bros., of Preston, an excellent display of heating apparatus. Burrows, Stewart & Milne, of Hamilton, are in evidence in this direction. Sewing machines, washing machines, pumps and scales of various makes are on view. The exhibit of furs made by James H. Rogers is a handsome one. Stained glass shown in the main building comes from London, Ont., the article is also made, I find, in Winnipeg. Musical instruments, too, form a considerable item in the list of wares, as does furniture. Tea stalls are numerous, from "Galt's Blue Ribbon" to "Monsoon" and "Salada." The Hudson's Bay Company have a fine stand, a pronounced attraction of which is natty young girls selling Lipton's teas. Drewry's ales and aerated waters deserve mention, also Blackwood Bros' pickles, etc., for they are home products. Great interest is created by the display, some 75 feet in length, of produce from the experimental farms at Indian Head and Brantford.

I send you city papers with Hon. Mr. Greenway's address at the opening of the Fair. The Governor-General was present on the second day. He congratulated the directors and managers of the Fair on their successful arrangements, as he well might. It was fortunate that the weather was good, for the rains of the 1897 Fair are an unpleasant memory.

MACHINERY HALL.

This building is too small for its purposes; and its purposes are important, one of them is to show to a mainly farming crowd farmers' machinery in motion. The exhibit of implements and machinery in this building is most interesting, and some firms are represented this time who have never shown here before. The J. B. Armstrong Company, of Guelph, exhibit their well-known goods, likewise the John Watson Co., of Ayr. In farm machinery Frost & Wood, of Smith's Falls, show mowers, plows and harrows. John Abell of Toronto has engines and threshers on hand. American firms also exhibit farm implements, notably Chicago in binders and Moline in plows. Minneapolis, too, has drills and harvesters, and Racine engines and separators. The well-known Waterous Engine Works Company, of Brantford, exhibit threshers, traction engines, etc. Of vehicles such as carriages Oshawa, Brockville, Orillia and Gananoque show a great variety, and Heney & Co., of Montreal, are exhibitors of vehicles and upholstering. The Cockshutt Plow Co., of Brantford, are to the front with their goods. It is said that many more exhibits of carriages would have been made had there been room for them. A number of the larger farm machines on the present occasion were shown in motion, driven by wind-mills in some cases, by steam engines in others.

The Fair was held from Monday, July 11, to Saturday, 16, and this did not seem to be too long. There were 10,000 people present on the first day, the band of the 48th Highlanders playing briskly. Numbers of Americans came in to the city on Tuesday and Wednesday, not waiting for American Day. On the last day there are declared to have been 17,000 people at the Fair, and I can quite believe it. American Day brought twice if not thrice the crowd of Americans the last Fair showed.

The display of grains in Agricultural Hall was disappoint-

ingly small, but the vegetables made an excellent show. For a second time the Union Bank prize of \$100 was won by Wm. Laughland, of Hartney, Man. A variety of specimens of barley from the Red River valley was on view, as well as other grains.

Possibly your business readers do not take any stock in racing, whether of horses or men, still I guess some may. Some people that I know think it all wrong; but if it is wrong there are many of the best people in the land not only witness it but support it. I heard one man say "The races are half the show." Games, too, must be provided for such occasions as this. Surely nobody will find fault with them. What are called "attractions," such as trapeze and other funny business, help to bring the crowd. So do the fireworks, and the dog show, and the bands. The Highlanders' Band was a drawing card.

Winnipeg, 16th July, 1898.

CROPS IN QUEBEC.

As to crop conditions in the Province of Quebec our Montreal correspondent writes on Wednesday: "The hay crop in this province is a large one this year, and is being saved in excellent condition. Reports from the Eastern Townships are very favorable indeed; and an excellent authority in the hay trade, who has just returned from Quebec, states that the accounts from districts around that city and eastward are almost equally favorable. It is calculated that the acreage under hay is somewhat less than heretofore, probably about ten per cent., but the yield per acre is heavy, and the crop is variously estimated at from 25 to 33 1-3 per cent. larger than last year. Prices will likely rule low, as reports of the United States crop are favorable, and it is claimed that old hay of good quality can be bought in the country, alongside track at \$4.00 per ton.

It is too early to estimate definitely the oat crop, which is the most important grain crop in the Province of Quebec, but a large acreage of that grain has been sown, and all indications are very favorable. The straw is a little short in some sections, but present appearances would warrant the expectation of a full average yield. Peas used to be an important crop among us but have not been cultivated to the same extent of late years; the crop as far as it goes, is judged a fair one. Wheat growing in Quebec is almost one of the lost arts, the acreage of this grain now sown is a mere bagatelle, and in the Richelieu Valley, celebrated thirty or forty years ago as one of the greatest wheat growing sections of Canada, it is now a rarity to see a field of wheat.

The fruit crop will be apparently a moderate one only; small fruits show a fair yield, but the caterpillar has done much damage in many sections, and those who have been careless about their orchards will fare poorly.

CANADIAN BANKS IN THE YUKON COUNTRY.

"Twenty-five thousand people were in Dawson City on June 28th, the day the letter was written." Such are the concluding words of a despatch in Wednesday's Globe based upon a letter received by the Bank of British North America at Vancouver, written by that bank's manager at Dawson. This gentleman, Mr. Doig, has been since May 19th, transacting with his assistants, the business of the bank in a big tent with a wooden floor, but is getting a two-story house built of logs, each log costing \$9. His letter states that the Mining Inspector has estimated the output this season as low as \$7,000,000. The present wash-up could be taken as no criterion of the wealth of the district. Mr. Doig does not think the output will be much more than from \$7,000,000 to \$10,000,000 this year, basing this low estimate on the fact that many good mines have not been worked, the miners early in the winter having been driven up to Circle City by the fear of famine. Gold is passing up there as currency, he says, at \$17 an ounce. Already the Government has collected \$400,000 in revenue dues.

According, however, to a Seattle despatch of July 19th, the output is estimated more highly by others. Mr. Thomas C. Auston of New Whatcomb, Wash., one of 36 returned Klondykers on the "Samoa" schooner from St. Michaels, July 6th, states that the clean-up on El Dorado, Bonanza and Hunker Creek this season will not be less than \$10,000,000. This, together with about \$5,000,000 of last season's output, will all be shipped out this year.