

PORTAGE PLOWING MATCH

Lovers of good plowing had a double treat in store at the annual match of the Portage la Prairie Plowing Association held on the McKenzie farm, five miles west of the town on June 26 and 27. The first day's program was devoted to the walking and gang plow classes in which there were more competitors entered with greater crowds of spectators watching them than at any previous match in the association's history. The second day witnessed an innovation. The program consisted of a plowing match for light tractors in which the prizes were awarded according to the quality of the work done just as had been done on the previous day. Fine weather favored the contestants and the interest of the spectators was sustained until the last furrow was turned and the awards announced.

Forty contestants lined up in the walking and gang plow classes. They came from as far east as Bird's Hill and as far west as Brandon. The number and prosperity of the farmers in attendance may be judged from the fact that well over 200 cars were parked along the roadside. They watched the proceedings from a strip which separated the land of the walking plow and gang classes. With the turning on this strip it soon became very dusty and the high wind made it disagreeable but the crowd remained till after six o'clock when the awards were announced. Great interest centered around the open classes for walking plows. There was considerable difference of opinion amongst the "furrow-wise" as to who was the best plowman. John Brown, of Portage, had a beautiful finish and good consistent work throughout, but his feering was a little faulty. T. L. Guild, of Brandon, crowded his second furrow somewhat, though other wise the finished land read well. The prize went to James Sutherland, a Scotch plowman from the Brandon district, with whose work many throughout Manitoba are familiar. In the open gang class, Thomas Wishart won first place with a score of 81, closely followed by A. M. Brownridge, whose score was 80.

Great interest centered around the work of the second day, when the tractor plowmen competed. It was not a tractor demonstration, nor yet a tractor contest, but a tractor plowing match, judged under the same rules and by the same score-card as governed the former day's operations. It was the first event of its kind to be staged in the province if not in western Canada. There were ten entries. The contest was open to farmers and tractor men generally, but the farmers proved to be more expert than the experts, putting them well down the prize list. Each contestant had to plow three acres and had to be finished by 5 o'clock.

The Awards

The judges for the walking plow class were William Fraser of Holland, and G. H. Jones, R.S.A. of Carman; for the gang classes, J. Henderson, Bird's Hill and J. A. Demstead, Carberry; for the tractor classes James Sutherland, Brandon and O. Graham, Winnipeg. The awards were as follows:

Walking plows, 14 inch, open to men who have not won first prize previous to 1917—W. Lang, 72; C. Macdonald, 69; both of Portage la Prairie. Gang plows, open to men who have not won first prize previous to 1917—H. Wishart, 71; G. Woods, 70; A. G. Batters, 72; all of Portage la Prairie. Light tractors, open to men under 18—J. Seaman, 74; J. Carter, 73; E. S. Master, 72; all of Portage la Prairie. Tractor plows, 14 inch, open to men—T. W. Brown, 74; J. W. Byron, 73; A. M. Brownridge, 72; S. W. Burton, 71; T. Wishart was the winner of the provincial government cup for the best plowed land with gang plows. J. Sutherland, of Brandon, captured the Sir Daniel McMillan trophy for Class I walking plows. W. Lang, of Portage la Prairie, won Hon. Arthur Meighen's cup for best plowman in the Dominion constituency of Portage. The winner of the Hon. Hugh Armstrong's cup in Class A gang plows was H. Wishart, of Portage la Prairie.

The Farmers' Market

WINNIPEG MARKET LETTER

Office of The Grain Growers' Grain Company Limited, June 30, 1917. Prices have been working to lower levels in the wheat markets. Probably the most important influence has been the inactivity in American markets awaiting action by the new food controller. American mills have been doing very little business and consequently the cash wheat markets in American centers have become badly demoralized. There is also the probability of curtailment in the consumption of wheat products in this continent which is having quite a harmful influence. The daily markets have been very dull, with business restricted to the cleaning up of old contracts. Cash markets have been most active here and good buying by export firms has kept prices of about the same level. Offerings have been heavy and steady buying has been necessary to maintain the level of prices. Speculation in the futures has caused quite a slump in prices.

Table with columns for Wheat, July, and various grades (No. 1, No. 2, etc.) and prices.

Table with columns for WHEAT, No. 1, No. 2, etc., and prices.

Table with columns for LIVESTOCK, Cattle, Hogs, Sheep and Lambs, and prices.

Table with columns for COUNTRY PRODUCE, Butter, Eggs, Fat, etc., and prices.

Table with columns for Cash Prices Fort William and Port Arthur from June 26 to July 3 inclusive, including Wheat, Oats, Barley, and Flax.

WINNIPEG and U.S. PRICES

Table with columns for Cash Grain, Winnipeg, and U.S. prices for various grain types.

The Livestock Markets

South St. Paul, June 28. Estimated receipts at the Union stockyards today: Cattle, 2,500; calves, 500; hogs, 3,722; sheep, 500; horses, 62; cows, 187. On a big Thursday run cattle prices were lowered 10 cents to 15 cents today and for the week are rated 25 cents to 40 cents lower. A lot of trade was done under \$7.50, this taking in the cheap country steers and cows. Steers and feeder prices were steady at the week's decline. Steady prices were paid on hogs. Two loads again sold at \$15.25, with a sale of two at \$15.00 to \$15.25. Pigs were 25 cents higher, best stock selling at \$13.50. Receipts were 4,700 hogs. Another good run of sheep and lambs arrived, a much of it was on the feeder order. Lamb sales ranged mostly from \$11.00 to \$13.50. Lambs that weighed a little under 50 lbs. of 100 pounds were taken off at \$11.00 to \$11.50. Steers were in fair supply, and anything good brought \$9.50. Feeder cows sold down to \$6.00.

Winnipeg, June 27. The Grain Growers' Grain Co. reports receipts at the Union stockyards for last week as follows: Cattle, 1,810; calves, 172; sheep and lambs, 179; hogs, 5,700. The supply of cattle is heavier than last week, the bulk of the run is in unimproved cattle that would be better left on the farm for a time as too many of this kind give a tendency to lower values all round. There are a few loads of dry fat still coming and they bring fair prices, but have also declined in price since last week from 30 cents to \$1.00 a cwt. The only class that has not suffered in price is good quality close up springers and fresh milk cows which are in demand and are bringing steady prices. Receipts of calves continue light and choice veal calves up to 200 lbs. are selling freely up to 12 cents per lb. Fat to medium \$6.00 to \$6.00. The hog market closed last week at \$14.50, but this week the price has advanced to \$15.00, with a steady outlook. Most of the run is being taken by the local abattoirs.

Country Produce

Cream and butter prices are away down at Winnipeg, the former having dropped six cents per pound yesterday, the latter about four cents. Lager quantities are arriving and a good deal of the dairy butter is really great quality. CAN THE EGG SITUATION? Reports from various producing sections indicate a falling off in receipts, and country dealers report a little better enquiry from consuming centers. Retail prices have generally been slow in coming down. In Ottawa eggs may now be obtained in a retail way from 25 to 27 cents, while they dropped as low as 23 cents on the market. In other points, Montreal and Toronto, retail prices still range around 25 to 40 cents. On the Vancouver market the retail for best grades still holds at 30 cents, and in Winnipeg the price is 25 to 30 cents. Considerable speculation has occurred at different points as to the cause for the sharp decline in price to producers early in the month. Recent action would tend to indicate that one of the most potent factors was the sudden tightening of the money market, more particularly in the States. It is stated that dealers and others who earlier in the season had been able to handle a car in storage on 60 days' time at about \$400 suddenly found themselves faced with the necessity of getting up two or three times the amount.