

International Soil Products Exposition

Date set for October 16 to 26—\$10,000 in Prizes

THE International Farm Congress and Soil Products Exposition will be held in Kansas City, from October 16 to 26. The premium list is now ready for distribution and may be had by writing Publicity Department, International Farm Congress, Kansas City, Mo., U.S.A. Nearly \$10,000 is this year offered for agricultural exhibits in the premium list. The management will this year pay 50 per cent. of its cash premiums in war savings and thrift stamps. This rule will not, however, be enforced in the case of winners resident without the United States.

The State or Province Competition

The state competition, always very keen, is this year further encouraged by an unusually fine array of trophy cups and cash offerings. Chief of these is the big silver cup for best general display by a state, province or nation. This is a magnificent trophy, nearly as tall as a man, of handsome design and valued at \$500. It is offered by the Chicago Board of Trade. Other cups in this class total more than \$1,200.

The counties are well taken care of, 11 cups and nearly \$1,000 in cash being set aside for this class of exhibits.

Hard Spring Wheat Trophy

Increased production of wheat is encouraged by an array of prizes unequalled by any other fair or exposition, \$270 in cash being offered in six varieties. In addition there is a special offering for the best bushel of hard spring wheat of \$500 trophy cup by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The sweepstakes award is a \$100 trophy cup, and one grain binder complete, or its

equivalent in machinery. It is thus possible for the winning sample to net the grower \$870 in cash, machinery and trophies. If the sweepstakes sample happens to be hard spring and also dry-farmed the amount is increased to \$955.

Corn is next in point of prizes offered, \$158 in cash being offered in six varieties. The sweepstakes is \$25 in cash, a silver trophy cup, value \$100, and one Corn Planter, value \$75. Other crops are allotted their proportionate share of cash and trophies, and are recognized according to their economic importance.

The horticultural section is well filled and the premiums worthy of considerable effort. Several handsome trophy cups are offered in this section, the most notable being a \$100 cup for best and most artistic display of apples grown by one exhibitor.

In addition to the general classes there is featured a section devoted exclusively to dry-farmed products. The same samples entered in the general classes may be entered in this also, the exhibitor thereby having a double chance at the prize money. Sweepstakes for dry-farmed wheat is a \$50 trophy cup and \$25 in cash, and for best collective exhibit by an individual farmer, \$50 in cash, and a \$50 trophy cup offered by Governor Gunter, of Colorado.

The annual sessions of the International Dry-Farming Congress and the International Irrigation Congress for 1918, will be held jointly at Kansas City, October 21-22. This joint meeting probably presages the permanent amalgamation of these two most important agricultural organizations.

Government Assistance in Seed Growing

Improving Field Crop Competitions, Seed Fairs and Exhibitions—Grain Growers' Elevators for Seed Cleaning—G. H. Clark, Dominion Seed Commissioner

A BRIEF statement of the history of field crop competitions, etc., and of their progress for the five-year period, 1910-15, may be of interest as an introduction to the subject of their improvement. Prior to 1912 the work and expenses of organizing, judging, advertising and reporting of field crop competitions, seed fairs and provincial seed exhibitions was done by the seed branch on application from agricultural societies which had received necessary grants as prize monies for their province, and the seed branch also offered grants for provincial seed exhibitions. However, some of the provincial departments of agriculture were already conducting these services, Ontario all three; Manitoba her field crop competitions and seed fairs; and Saskatchewan her seed fairs and exhibition. In 1912 all were passed over for provincial administration and Dominion subventions were offered through the seed branch which now amount to two-thirds of the monies awarded in cash prizes, but must not exceed \$50 for each of five crops in a field competition; \$50 for each seed fair; and \$600 for each provincial seed exhibition.

These amounts are approximately one-half the total cost of conducting this educational work. The subventions are paid on the basis of \$1,500 to each province having less than 1,000,000 acres under field crops and \$1,500 for each additional 1,000,000 of field crop acreage, but not more than \$1,500 pro rata per 100,000 of total population.

The appropriation in the seed branch estimates for this purpose has increased from \$14,000 in 1910-11, to \$50,000 in 1915-16, of which \$36,000 was claimed by the provinces. The \$14,000 covered the expenses of conducting 110 field competitions, 52 seed fairs and six provincial seed exhibitions, including about \$1,000 in grants. The \$36,000 paid to the provinces in 1915 assisted 418 field competitions, 149 seed fairs, and nine provincial seed exhibitions. Approximately \$37,000 was paid in subventions on this account during each of the past two years, and the services are still being extended.

The district officers of the seed branch have been required to study their effect upon agriculture in relation to the amounts paid in subventions, and their reports show ample evidence that on the whole these monies have been well and wisely expended. However, in view of the present national emergency and the need for sound economy, deputy ministers of agriculture were consulted during the past winter as to the elimination of that part of these services which might be considered to have served its purpose and the revision of the remainder so as to secure the largest possible benefits to agriculture. Their replies emphasized the value of the work especially in view of the great need for increased production, and suggested extension rather than curtailment. Some gave improvements in rules and regulations, actually made or under contemplation, and requested further suggestions from the seed branch.

Subventions are paid to the provinces on certain prescribed conditions. For example, a grant may be paid on account of an agricultural society conducting field competitions with each of five kinds of crops, including cereal grains, grass, clover or other crops grown for seed, also fodder, field root and garden vegetable crops. A grant of \$200 may be paid toward a provincial seed exhibition on account of prizes awarded in each of three classes, namely, (a) general class, (b) exhibits from prize-winning or commendable fields in crop competitions, and (c) exhibits of selected seeds or plants eligible for registration.

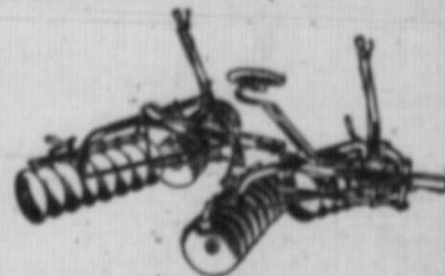
The following plan has now been offered to the provinces from the standpoint of both economy and improvement:

Field Crop Competitions

1. In the case of biennial crops, as field roots or garden vegetables, prizes shall be awarded on the total score of the growing stockling or root crop and the growing seed crop produced therefrom. (This is an amendment to No. 1 under our Amended Plan for 1913,

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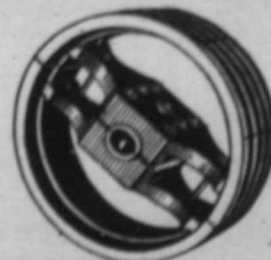
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