



Specimens and growing grounds of the Edmonton Exhibition

Western Canadian Fairs

Who doesn't enjoy a fair? The man whose blood does not run faster at the sound of the band, the passing of the herds of fellow men, women and children, the cheering for the race horses, be they common skates, selling plates or blue-blooded thoroughbreds—that man in whom the flow of life never approaches the flood-tide, surely he is a member of the limited association of Down-and-Outs and probably is eligible to the order of Never-Was.

But the man who has within him the capacity for child-like enjoyment of holiday events—and Heaven he thanked his number is legion—who can enter whole-heartedly, with a spirit of enthusiasm, into these summer celebrations; who draws near the fair grounds with a quickening of step and spirit, as the small boy approaches the entrance to the circus tent—this man, though his path of life winds through humble haunts and he goes to his grave unheralded and unsung, has been blessed with a heritage invaluable and has gotten a great deal out of living.

Thousands upon thousands of those who come in the latter class will throng to Western Canada's exhibitions this season. And they will see things that are worth seeing. For in these Prairie Provinces the summer fairs, from the smallest country show to the great expositions at the centers of population, have been brought to a degree of excellence unsurpassed upon the continent.

Of course, at all of these the products of the farm are given first place among the educative exhibits. And properly so, for by the viewing of live stock, grain and product brought to the highest state of perfection by systematic and intelligent breeding, the agriculturist is given a model, in the emulation of which he raises the standard of his own output. Only second to the fruits of the farm are the agricultural implement exhibits. The importance in which the manufacturers of implements hold the Western Canadian field is well illustrated by the great motor competition at the Winnipeg exhibition. In this competition the greatest machinery producers of the world vie with one another to prove the efficiency and individual merit of their respective tractors and plows. At all the larger fairs every farm implement imaginable is demonstrated.

One great merchandiser has claimed that the patronage of agricultural communities is to be preferred to any other, and Western Canada's distributing houses have seemingly adopted this as an axiom. They cater to the desires of the city folks, but at all the exhibitions the predominant displays are those that will appeal to the farmer, his wife and children. In fact, at the fairs, in few other places, the farmer is given his rightful place as the "backbone of the nation." A bewildering display this. Products of factory, loom and mills are gathered from the corners of the earth and all enticingly arranged. Everything for the home, barn, field and workshop is shown.

But granted that everything in the display section is of the best possible character, and that this were all of the fair, who'd give a snap for it? Certain trips the rural resident makes to the city

on business; but, after the busy spring-time, when he is surfeited with seriousness—the preparing of the seed-bed, the sowing and the anxious waiting for precipitation of needed moisture—then, when the crops are off to a good start, does the farmer want his instruction in horse-pathic doses and very properly demands amusement.

And this amusement is put up for him in chunks at every one of the big fairs. Of course there is the Midway. Not the old sort of a Midway that became famous for its infamy; that kind of mis-called amusement has been relegated to the "never to be again" heap. It must be admitted that at some of these attractions we may look askance, but so great is the improvement that the Midway has been brought out of the realms of barbarity. It is often said by the more serious minded, that the horse-racing is featured too strongly. It is very probable that this is true. But still, whose heart does not warm toward the man who nearly falls out of the grand stand "pulling" for the horse that has caught his eye?

The instructive features are there, and they are eagerly viewed, but it is probably the glittering galaxy of amuse-

ment that attracts most of us to the exhibition.

Following are the big fairs of Western Canada for 1911, together with the secretaries and dates.

North Battleford Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, June 26-28, Hugh Mauer, secretary.

Saskatoon Exhibition, June 30-July 4, D. Douglas, secretary.

Neepawa Summer Exhibition, June 29-July 1, J. A. Dempsey, secretary.

Alberta Provincial Exhibition, Calgary, June 30-July 7, E. L. Richardson, secretary.

Portage Industrial Exhibition, Portage la Prairie, July 10-13, H. G. Colman, secretary.

Canadian Industrial Exhibition, Winnipeg, July 14-22, Dr. A. W. Bell, secretary.

Inter-Provincial Fair, Brandon, July 24-29, W. I. Smale, secretary.

Dominion Exhibition, Regina, August 1-12, L. T. McDonald, secretary.

Edmonton Exhibition, August 13-20, A. G. Harrison, secretary.

Vancouver Exhibition, August 31-September 9, H. S. Rolston, secretary.

Exhibition is the fair of the West, the Canadian West, and just as Canada West is today the seven day sensation in the show evolution of the world's development, so does its exhibition attract the inquiring attention of those people all over the world to whom the name of Canada means something or promises something. The pages of the registers of Winnipeg's hotel during exhibition time afford food for a romance of narrative. Not only do they show the visitors flocking to the city from the outermost fringes of the western reign of settlement, but also inquiring visitors who have come from the American States, from England, from Continental Europe, even from far Asia, to get in concrete and concentrated form a look at Western Canada as it is reflected in the exhibition at Winnipeg. During that ten day period in July it can be consistently said that the eyes of the world are upon Western Canada.

Could they but realize it the farmers of the West must see that this situation and this condition also reflects a certain duty upon them. The world comes to see Western Canada at that time; the world should see a representative section of Western Canada and should see the best that it has to offer, albeit a pleasant duty and one holding out its fair share of compensation, the farmer of the prairies should not overlook this duty of public spirit to the exhibition.

Large Prize List

The Canadian Industrial Exhibition, as it is called this year for the first time, offers a little more than the customary number of improvements and additions for this year. The prize list totals \$40,000 and inspection of the document which the association will forward anyone on request gives the thousand and one details into which this fund is divided. Last fall the old main building of the exhibition was burned while being used as a temporary children's hospital. To replace it a new Science and Arts building which has been planned along the latest lines of construction of this sort will be erected, and in order to follow what has always been the trend of the crowd this building will be erected in the area between the grand stand and the western Colonnade. It will contain a large air dome or band stand where the Enville Hall prize drum and flute band, which comes direct from the Old Country by command of His Majesty George V, the exhibition of Winnipeg will give its concert as well as in front of the big band stand.

The symbolism and pageantry of the coronation period will be featured at the exhibition in a great many ways and the imperial spirit will predominate all through the big show. This atmosphere will be brought to a climax by the great Pyro-Military spectacle which will be presented each night. The scene will be a replica in fire participated in by over a thousand men of the Coronation naval review at Spithead, showing the royal yacht reviewing the vessels of His Majesty's men in all the glitter and glory of an illuminated naval scene by night. The military tattoo which will be given as an adjunct to the spectacle will be changed nightly, a series of national programs being given. The various nights in series are as follows: Canadian Night, British Night, Foreign

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A Classy Pair—Prize Winners in Agricultural Team Competition

Canadian Industrial Exhibition

July 12-22

Every great public event must necessarily claim pre-eminence in some way, if for no other reason, in order to maintain the self respect of its own officials but in selecting for its annual slogan the pronouncement "The Show that makes the Whole World Wonder," contemplation of that line is not a tribute to advertising enterprise but the statement of a Simon pure fact. The annual exhibition at Winnipeg is now in its 21st year and is by no means the biggest fair on the American continent. There are actually two which are larger. Over in the Old Country standards of comparison may be different but there are fairs over there which attract their thousands as the Winnipeg show does its dozens. Oddly enough, quite the largest exhibition in the world from every standpoint is one that is held in Russia.

But, while the Winnipeg Exhibition

cannot claim pre-eminence in size or in the number that flock to it, or even in the beauty and variety of the buildings which are its permanent adornment, yet it has in it every year those qualities which attract attention in Canada and out of it more than any other annual agricultural and industrial exhibition. The great fairs of Eastern Canada and the United States draw practically all their interest from their local province or state. Each year the Dominion government takes turn in fathering one of the provincial fairs and it is called the Dominion Exhibition. But even this hardly serves to remove from these fairs their provincial atmosphere and one of them creates no more future outside of its own locality than does the announcement of a new amusement in Coney Island cut any ripples beyond Rahway, N. J.

Not so with Winnipeg. Winnipeg's