

### The Buffalo International Fair.

This show was held Sept. 5th to 13th, and in many respects it was a success, in others it could scarcely be considered so. The attendance was large, notwithstanding the admission fee of fifty cents. Some placing it as high as eighty-five thousand on one day of the Fair. This, however, is, we think, considerably above the mark. Probably fifty thousand would be nearer the mark. The exhibit of Holstein, Guernsey and Galloway cattle was very large, and the stock very fine, being one of the best exhibits we have ever seen in these classes. Ayrshires were very good, but small in numbers. Shorthorns ditto. Bow Park Farm, Brantford, Ont., carried off every first prize except three, and for these they did not compete. The Guernsey exhibit is worthy of special mention. The aged bull Lewiston Boy, owned by Mr. Townsend, Lewiston, N. Y., won an easy first, and is certainly a magnificent animal. Senator Hammond, of Geneva, N. Y., had the milk of one of his herd, Fanny Forrest 377, tested (unofficial), which showed the unusual amount of six and one-quarter per cent. of butter fat, equivalent to twenty-five per cent. total solids. A few red Polls were shown, and were in a very nice, healthy condition. They have the appearance of being better milkers than their black relatives. A few Swiss cattle were shown, called by their owner "Improved Swiss." In color they might easily be mistaken for Jerseys, but are larger and coarser, yet have the same style and build, the horns, however, being more like those of the Devon, although not quite as long and large. Not a Jersey graced the exhibition. A fair number of Herefords were shown, and Devons as well, but presented no special feature of any kind. About thirty head of "Dutch Belts" were on exhibition, but were often passed without being distinguished from the Holsteins, so much do they resemble them, being distinguished only by the uniformity of the white markings. A few Highland cattle also were on exhibition, and, on account of their long wavy hair and enormous horns, attracted much attention.

The sheep department was well filled, and it took good ones to win. The swine were good as a class, and there seemed to be more demand for them than any other stock.

Light horses were well represented. Some really magnificent French coach horses were to be seen; especially worthy of notice was the noted Drap d'Or, owned by Henry E. Wilson, Venangoboro, Pa., who, however, was awarded only second place, although in the mind of many the best horse. In Percherons the display was large and excellent, the first prize for aged stallions being awarded to an Ontario horse. In Clydesdales and Shires as well the Ontario exhibitors received the lion's share of the honors. E. J. & H. B. Treichler, of Sanborn, Niagara, N. Y., showed fourteen imported Clydesdales of superior merit, and won several first prizes.

The display of poultry was excellent, Messrs. Burns & Moffit, of Tilsonburg, Ont., winning the special prize of an Ayrshire calf for largest and best exhibit. They also won several valuable pigs as specials. The Eureka Poultry Co., of Port Huron, Mich., made a large exhibit. From what we can learn, this Company, which was recently organized, is breeding thoroughbred fowls on a very large scale. The manager, Mr.

Fox, says they have now three thousand chicks of this season's hatch.

There is one fact in connection with this show, which, if not remedied at once, will destroy its usefulness. In fact, many think that the harm already done cannot be remedied in half a decade. We refer to the seemingly exorbitant charges made for space and feed. The swine exhibitors, almost to a man, declared they would never exhibit at Buffalo again. Hay was sold at twenty dollars per ton, while in the city it was worth but twelve, and other feeds in proportion. Three dollars was charged for an exhibitor's ticket, and one dollar for every attendant. Side-shows and hucksters' stands literally covered the most public parts of the ground. In fact, it is the stockholders, not the exhibitors show. While finding fault with the management, the exhibitors spoke highly of the departmental superintendents, several of whom were presented with testimonials to that effect, and some of them with more tangible tokens.

### Evils that Must be Remedied in the Northwest.

After looking at Manitoba as a field for emigration, and considering its agricultural advantages, it becomes us, in turn, to direct our attention to the opposite side, and speak of it as we find it, and from a settler's point of view; not for the purpose of running down the Province as a field for settlement, but to call attention to existing drawbacks that remedial measures may be devised, and existing evils remedied.

The system of large land grants, the strong monopolistic corporations, and particularly to railroad corporations, where alternate sections are withheld from settlement, is objectionable, and especially so if exempt from taxation. The evil effect of this system is becoming more apparent every year. The Hudson Bay Company having secured its grant, the school lands having been allotted, and the remaining odd numbered sections having been handed over, free of taxation for time to come, to railway jobbers, leaves the actual settler at the mercy of the railroad company and compels him to work for the company, and increase their land in value at the sacrifice of his own time, money and comfort,—and what is of greater importance, at the sacrifice of the moral, social and educational advantages, which his family should, and would, otherwise possess. One illustration will suffice.

A family locate on section ten in any township; he is surrounded by sections three, nine, fifteen and eleven, each one mile square; they are withheld from settlement, exempt from taxation, and prove a veritable curse to the settler; a refuge for wolves and foxes to destroy his flocks; of smaller vermin to exterminate his poultry, and a breeding ground for gophers to cut his wheat fields; an obstruction to the establishment of churches; an obstacle to education, and a bar to social enjoyment.

It may be said these lands can be purchased, but they cannot be purchased at anything like the money they were supposed to represent when granted to the railway companies, and the price is gradually advanced as settlement of adjoining lands takes place. Would it not be well for the Government to stop all land grants of this nature to companies, and even give the C.P.R. a money equivalent for the land not yet selected by them, and hold the land at a fixed figure, open for sale, and subject to taxation and

settlement, and by this means remove the greatest bar to settlement and advancement.

Much harm has also been done in the past by the vacillating policy of the Federal Government, and the almost universal belief that political influence was alone necessary to obtain settlement favors. And even at the present time, no fixed rule appears to be adopted, and special cases are constantly calling for special indulgence. Should a married man with a young family homestead and invest all his capital, as is usually the case, in building and in improving his land, and in stock and machinery, and die before completing his third year's residence, his widow would derive no benefit from his expenditure unless she continued to live on the farm, and complete the settlement duties; and this it would be impossible for a woman with a family of small children to do, and no man of self respect should require her to do it. The land would revert to the Government with all the improvements, and the widow be left destitute. It would be but a small concession to make to issue the patent to the widow immediately on the death of the husband. It would only be a measure of justice, and the turning of the scales in favor of the homesteader, rather than against him.

Another point, deserving of special attention, is the system of wood permits. While all agree that the wood should be protected, it should at the same time be available for the settler's actual use. In some parts of the Province the wood question is a vital one; and we regret that the Government uses every available means to harass the settler and build up a revenue from this source. Often the settler finds his load or two of dead, half rotten poles seized by the Inspector, and is forced to pay a high fee for the privilege of keeping his wife and children from freezing to death; and even the very logs in his dwelling house, or stable, are seized, and he is forced to pay an exorbitant fee. Fortunately this is a matter that time will remedy, but the remedy cannot come too soon. It is in striking contrast to the system of selling a few million acres of excellent timber land to lumber speculators for a mere trifle, and is deserving of more than a second thought. The care of the woodland should be in the hands of the municipalities, and the dead or fallen wood be free to the settler.

The system of hay permits is also worthy of consideration. A few years ago settlers were accustomed to cut their hay in the most convenient place. It was practically of no value, as settlement was sparse and hay plentiful, and the settler little thought he would ever be called to account for a few loads of hay that would otherwise have only fed the prairie fires. Today many are being called upon to pay for the grass they cut years ago upon the Government land, and the settler is now prohibited from cutting hay on these lands unless he pays a good figure for the privilege. Of course a small revenue is derived from this source, and occupation for a few useless officials.

It will at once be seen that nearly all the above disadvantages can be removed at the will of the Parliament, hitherto it has required strong pressure to move that august body, and it remains to be seen whether, having once been put in motion, they will continue to act for the best interests of the Province, or not. One thing is certain, Manitoba is bound to go forward, and after shaking off a few more of the shackles that have so long been holding her back, will advance with surprising rapidity. JUSTICE.