

Agricultural Exhibitions.

Grenfell, Assa.....	July 14th
Virdeu.....	" 14th
Moosomin, Assa.....	Thursday, " 15th
Glenboro.....	Friday, " 15th
Oak Lake.....	Saturday, " 16th
Brandon.....	Tuesday and Wednesday, " 19-20
Portage la Prairie.....	Thursday and Friday, " 21-22
Boisseval.....	Thursday and Friday, " 21-22
Winnipeg "Industrial".....	" 25-29
Macleod, N. W. T.....	Tuesday, Aug. 2nd
Melita.....	" 2-3
Moosejaw, Assa.....	" 4th
Treherne.....	" 10th
Orbon, Assa.....	Sept. 30th
Meadow Lea (Woodlands E. D. Soc.).....	Tues., Oct. 4th
Selkirk.....	" 4-5
Pilot Mound.....	" 4-5
North Plympton, Springfield.....	" 5-6
Saskatoon.....	Wednesday and Thursday, " 5-6
Killarney.....	" 5-6
Carberry, Man.....	" 6-7
Birtle.....	" 6-7
Regina.....	Thursday and Friday, " 6-7
Swan Lake (Lorne E. D. Agr. Soc.).....	" 7th
Strathclair, Man.....	" 7th
Stonewall, Man.....	" 11-12
Nee-pawa, Man.....	" 11-12
Minnedosa, Man.....	" 12th
Wolseley Agr. Soc.....	" 18th

NOTE.—Fair secretaries or directors are requested to send in additions to the above list.—ED.

Additions to the Winnipeg Fair Prize List.

The Secretary of the Industrial Exhibition, Winnipeg, notifies us that the following prizes are offered which do not appear in the printed list distributed. ADVOCATE readers interested will govern themselves accordingly.

CLASS 38.—FOWLS.

White Wyandottes.....	1st. \$2 50	2nd. \$1 50	3rd. \$1 00
Polish.....	2 50	1 50	1 00
Black Spanish.....	2 50	1 50	1 00

CLASS 39.—CHICKENS OF 1892.

White Wyandottes.....	\$2 50	\$1 50	\$1 00
Polish.....	2 50	1 50	1 00
Black Spanish.....	2 50	1 50	1 00

CLASS 40.

Best Incubator, in operation.....	\$20 00
Best Brooder, in operation.....	10 00

CLASS 56.

Section 15.—Bread, three loaves (2nd Prize).....	\$5 00
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A Prominent English Show.

The Bath and West of England Show is considered in England second in importance to that held by the Royal Agricultural Society. For many years Canadian breeders have been in the habit of attending, in order to select specimens of sheep and pigs that may be heard from later on at our fall shows.

The recent show was held at Swansea, Wales, and more than held its own in point of numbers as regards the display of sheep, 246 being the number catalogued.

In Cotswolds, R. Swanwick, G. Bagnall & Son, W. Thomas and T. R. Hulbert were all successful exhibitors.

Southdown prizes were won by specimens from the flocks of A. de Murrieta, E. Ellis, J. Blythe and C. Y. Lucas.

Shropshires were an exceedingly good show, and in numbers constituted one-third of the whole. T. & S. Bradburn, Astwood Hill, Redditch, England, carried off prizes in shearing rams, ram lambs and shearlings, their sheep being exceedingly stylish, and of extra good quality. Mr. G. Thompson, Wyke, Warwick was also a successful competitor. He had a lot of neat, compact sheep of capital quality. Messrs. G. Graham, G. Jervis, H. C. D. and A. F. Marshall, J. Bowen-Jones and J. H. Hill all had good specimens that were highly commended by the judges.

Wethers downed were a very small class, but A. Bressy, G. Adams, R. W. Hobbs were the principal exhibitors.

In Somerset or Dorset Horns, C. B. G. T. Bridgewater, Somerset, won all the principal prizes, winning first in every class.

Seeding Down—Promising Grasses.

A large'y increasing area of lands in this province is being brought under cultivation for the growth of grain and other crops, as a consequence of rapid settlement. New towns are springing up and old ones rapidly growing larger in all directions. In many parts of Manitoba a more diversified system of agriculture is being adopted, to bring about which live stock is being introduced. Large districts are better adapted for rearing cattle, sheep and other classes of stock than exclusive grain-growing, and all this means an increasing consumption of fodder, of which hay will undoubtedly continue a staple. There has been a very large increase in the number of horses in this province during the past year, and to feed these horses more hay will be required. Indications promise an abundant growth this season, however. An important reason for hay or grass-growing arises from the fact that a large proportion of prairie soils is peculiarly loose, a condition which continuous cultivation greatly aggravates. By seeding down and taking off a couple of crops of hay, the soil seems to become more firm and to some extent is restored to the condition found after the original breaking from prairie sod. (This firmness of the soil, as our readers know, promotes early maturing, which is most important in connection with the wheat crop.) It is also useful in exterminating weeds, and it affords an excellent opportunity for top dressing with manure, and thus maintaining the fertility of the soil. That timothy and other grasses can be cultivated with advantage is amply demonstrated by the experience of many farmers throughout the province, and, as a writer in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE pointed out in a recent issue, it is more desirable to grow large crops of hay upon the farm than it is to go scouring the sloughs miles away for a supply. At the Portage la Prairie and other institute meetings during the past season the virtues of seeding down have been strongly emphasized and testimony given as to the advantages and profits of hay culture. It will perhaps be found that for some localities, and perhaps for a large proportion of the province, a number of our native grasses may prove superior to timothy. At the Brandon Experimental Farm this spring the native grasses gave evidence of having stood the winter remarkably well, and displayed a greater early spring growth, which is an important point in their favor.

As to the cultivated varieties, Mr. Bedford, Superintendent of that Farm, is disposed only to recommend timothy, *Bromus Inermis* (or Hungarian Forage Plant), *Poa Compressa* (or Canadian Blue Grass) and the Fescues. Kentucky Blue Grass was killed in spots during the past winter, so I hesitate to recommend it.

Of the natives, *Meibomia Glomerata* (or Wild Timothy), is the most nutritious, but not such a heavy cropper as some others. It ripens late. *Agropyrum Tenuum* (or Western Bunch Wheat Grass) is, perhaps, next in value. It is very much like the English Rye Grass. It is the earliest of cultivated native grasses and is, on June 14th, two feet high. *Elymus Virginicus* (or Lyme Grass) has a head very much like wheat, a free grower and promising. *Elymus Americanus* (or American Lyme Grass) is the tallest of our cultivated native grasses; bearded, a rank grower, very vigorous and should be cut green; very hardy. *Agropyrum caninum* (Bearded Wheat Grass) is not quite so tender feed as the *A. Tenuum*, but equally hardy and productive. *Bromus ciliatus* (Fringed Brome Grass), very much like chess, is of the same family, grows four feet high and is covered with leaves from root to seed-head. All the Brome grasses do well in this province, and this is no exception.

"All the above," says Mr. Bedford, "are perennial and, of course, hardy. The more I see of them the better I like them. I have tested a large number of others, but so far the above are all I can recommend."

We should be pleased to receive from our readers the result of their experience in hay making, especially with regard to the best methods of seeding down, and varieties that have done

The Mercer Company (Limited).

The farmers will be pleased to see the advertisement of the fine line of implements manufactured by the Mercer Company (Limited), of Alliston, Ont., which will be found on another page of this number.

The saying that nothing succeeds like success is fully exemplified in the case of this Company, whose works are running night and day, to supply the demand for their implements. Three years ago, when the firm of Mercer Bros. & Co. commenced the building of the Mercer Binder without canvas, of which they are the sole inventors, manufacturers and patentees, there were not prophets wanting who predicted as speedy a downfall to the Mercer binder as all other firms who endeavored to build a binder which would work satisfactorily without canvas. In this case, however, their prediction was far from being fulfilled, for, as an instance of Canadian inventive genius and energy, the firm have gained for themselves during the short time mentioned above a world wide reputation for their Mercer binder, which is to-day a household word in the principal grain-growing countries of the world, having branches in the following places: London, England; Padstow, Cornwall, England; Glasgow, Scotland; Kelso, Scotland; Ballarat, Australia; Dunedin, New Zealand; Cape Town, South Africa; Winnipeg, Manitoba, and local branches throughout Ontario.

Owing to a great demand for these goods during the season of 1891, and to compete with the larger firms, it was deemed advisable to enlarge the Company, and accordingly a charter was applied for and granted on the second day of April last, under the name of Mercer Company (Limited), instead of as heretofore, Mercer Bros. & Co. Their friends will kindly notice the above change in the name of the Company. It is worthy of note that the Mercer Company (Limited) are the second largest builders of binders in Canada this year, which must speak for itself as to what their machine has done in the past. The most flattering testimonials have been received by the firm from farmers in all parts of the world, and in trials with the leading canvas binders of the world the "Mercer" has held its own in the severest competitions.

It is a noteworthy fact that at Smeaton, Victoria, Australia, December 18th, 1891, the "Mercer", both in the experts' and farmers' classes were the only machines which cut their plot from start to finish without a stop. So pleased were the Australian farmers with the magnificent performance of these binders, that orders were taken for forty-five before leaving the trial ground, and it must be borne in mind that the crop on which the trial was made was so badly tangled that several canvas machines threw up the sponge disgusted, acknowledging their inability to cope successfully with the crop. We must also call attention to the Mercer Knotter, which is said to be the simplest and most complete in the market, consisting of only four working parts, thereby doing away with disk wheel, plunger bolt and knife arm. The makers claim that the machine saves fully an inch of twine on every knot tied, over the majority of other knotters, thus saving, much as every twelve sheaves means one band.

Five Months' Immigration.

Mr. Alex. Smith, of the Manitoba Government Immigration Office, Winnipeg, furnishes the following statement of the arrival of settlers for Manitoba and the Northwest during the first five months of this year, together with the number of cars of stock and effects, by C. P. R. via Ft. William and Gretna:—

1892.	Via Ft. William.		Via Gretna.	
	Number settlers.	Cars effects.	Number settlers.	
January.....	397	25	January.....	30
February.....	379	53	February.....	26
March.....	4,480	599	March.....	59
April.....	4,157	221	April.....	187
May.....	2,652	31	May.....	40
	11,975	929		342
Total number of settlers.....			12,317	