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FREE PRESS SPECIAL AGENTS

ROY V. SOMMERVILLE, Office, 106 Times Building, New York.
STREET & CO., London, Eng.
H. B. COOMBS, 51 King Street East, Toronto Ontario.

THE WESTERN FAIR.

The Western Fair has opened under circumstances as favorable in every way as good management and fair weather could suggest; and should the promise of the elements at the time of writing be fulfilled for this week nothing else will be likely to prevent a repetition of the best success of former years. Certainly nothing on the part of the directors has been left undone to provide an attractive exhibition, for the instruction and amusement of all comers. The management has done well to keep both of these objects in view, to make the Western Fair a gala holiday time, as well as an occasion for the full display of farm products. While these are ever unsurpassed in variety and excellence, proving the boundless fertility of the land around us on every side, they are an old story to the visitors, who need something more than pump and juicy fruits and vegetables or gay fables and luxurious flowers to fill up the sum of holiday enjoyment. From day to day, accordingly, there will be a programme of interesting animal exercises and shows of various kinds to suit all tastes and predilections. The visitor to the Western Fair grounds any day this week will witness a scene of animation that will be recognized as a full and striking objective lesson of the rate at which this part of the country is going in the way of material progress and aesthetic activity. In fact there is no better illustration furnished of the vast strides made in all branches of labor and every incident of modern culture than the Western Fair of to-day, in contrast with what it was twenty years ago. It is a standing testimony especially of the growth and vigor of the western part of Ontario. It is the parent sectional fair of the Dominion. The men of London and Middlesex were the first to organize a fair in opposition to the old Provincial above the scene of county resources. It was only after they had by intelligent zeal and well directed labors brought the Western Fair to a pronounced and permanent success that even Toronto awoke to the desirability of a yearly local fair of the same kind. The Toronto Industrial Exhibition was the first fruit of the Western, as it is its rival in importance as a collection of exhibits, or in the annual attendance of visitors. It was hardly to be looked for that, whenever the great city of Toronto, with all its wealth and advantages, should put forth its most vigorous efforts, London could maintain first place in the record. They have the men and the means to do all that can possibly be accomplished for such a purpose. Yet it can fairly be claimed that, as an agricultural exhibition, in the display of machinery in motion, in the multiplicity of ordinary attractions for the visitor, the Western Fair is not out-distanced by the Industrial. This is saying a great deal for London and the section of Ontario of which it is the busy and energetic centre. To keep nearly even pace with the best efforts of the Provincial capital is a testimony not only to the broad extent of western interests, but also to the boldness, breadth and energy of the men who give up so much of their time annually to the work. The gentlemen who have thus devoted themselves to the task of preparation, are deserving of the highest praise from the community, for the gain is to all alike. Although the business portion have a special share in the results of the Fair, every citizen who owns a foot of land, or a tenement, or has any work to do, derives some degree of advantage. It is, therefore, the duty of every one to second and support the managers by every means in their power, to the end that each year may, if possible, exceed in beneficial results that which has preceded it.

The report of the Ontario Bureau of statistics says that out of 2,614,9 possible hours of sunshine for the whole Province during the six months, 1,363.2 hours were registered, being 13.9 more than in 1890 and 13.0 more than the average for the nine years. There was a decrease of sunshine in April, June, July and August compared with their respective records of both 1890 and 1883-91, but the increase of sunshine in May and the unusual brightness of September lifted the total of the six months to the high place above quoted. Woodstock experienced more sunshine than any other station, 1,407.5 hours being registered, while Barrie had the least, only 1,281.5 hours being observed. At every station except Kingston there was more sunshine recorded in September than in August.

CANADIAN HAY IN ENGLAND.

There has been a short hay crop in Europe, and according to the London (England) Agricultural Gazette the pastures are bare in England, and also there is a large deficiency in the hay crop, and to such an extent that farmers in many districts will be heavy sufferers by the small yield of hay, as large numbers have only sufficient for their own use, and will not be able to avail themselves of the advantage of high prices, having no surplus to sell. There is consequently a good demand for Canadian hay in England at profitable prices, but unfortunately the export movement is seriously impeded through want of freight room on steamers. Such is the enquiry for hay space, that those who have engaged it can realize a good thing by re-letting it. Regarding the British hay question the Mark Lane Mail says the farmers' worse loss in 1892 is probably that of the shortage in the grass and forage crops, because of the large area over which deficiency was suffered. This loss, probably, will be a little reduced by increased price upon the quantity sent to market, but as many farmers require every trace of clover and hay produced on their occupations, the net loss through the small yield will be very serious. Already the enterprising foreigner is forwarding compressed hay to the United Kingdom, to share in the good prices being realized. Whilst the grass deficiency in value is about equal to the entire value of the whole wheat crop, yet it is again hard on the wheat grower that his small acreage—this season, only 2,219,889 acres for Great Britain—should still be likely to fall short of an average and that the price for the quantity grown should yet be unimproved by his deficiency. Of wheat, plenty can be imported, so price remains depressed. Of hay a foreign supply may be stimulated by £4 to £5 per load, but the country is not likely to be swamped, although Canada, at times, has declared it could forward a big bulk in a compressed state—wherever value was over £3 per ton. The Ontario hay crop has been one of the largest for years and the country at the present time, at least in this district, is full of it. This is evidenced from the fact that good hay at the present time is only selling from \$7 to \$7.50 per ton. In the British demand is so great, and such a profitable market can be found there, it is safe to conclude that hay will not long remain at the present prices in the Ontario markets.

FARM IMPROVEMENTS.

The progress which takes place from year to year in this line of farm work, says the report of the Bureau of Industries, is steady and sure throughout the greater part of the province. This year has been no exception to the rule. A considerable amount of under-draining has been accomplished in the western part of the province, particularly in the Lake Erie and Lake Huron counties. Little else except tile is now being used for this purpose, as it is generally conceded to possess immense advantages over stone and timber, and is found to be the cheapest in the long run. A farmer in Huron county writes:—"Twenty-five years ago I drained fifty acres with tile, and all the drains are now working as good as ever. Wood drains as a rule do not last over ten years." The demand for tile has been brisk, and manufacturers are yearly increasing their output. In nearly all localities there is a scarcity of really skilled hands for this work, particularly in parts where little of it has heretofore been done. Some complaint is made of the backwardness of municipalities to construct main drains, thus rendering it difficult or impossible to obtain suitable outlets and retarding the progress of the work. Draining machines are very rarely used, and have not as yet found much favor, although where the land is factory work. Rapid improvement continues to take place as regards fencing. Several descriptions of wire fencing are becoming very popular, and considerable hedge planting has also been done in some sections. There is also a growing improvement in farm houses and farm buildings. Many farmers are now building bank barns, and many are placing their barns on brick and stone foundations.

On a certain morning we passed a field of newly seeded clover, whose owner was just then mowing it. The rye crop which preceded it had been off a month, and the bright red clover blossoms showed that the heads would ripen seed before frost came severe enough to wilt them. In such cases cutting the clover is better than leaving it to rot down, or pasturing it down. In the first case the plants that seeded would have their vitality so weakened that they would die next winter. In the alternative of pasturing the clover down, ragweed and other weeds would be left to ripen their seeds and fill the soil with more trouble for future crops whenever the field was ploughed again. Ragweed does not often trouble clover the second year, however plentiful it may have been the first. The second year's clover smothered it down. Not so much is said now in favor of threshing wheat by drawing it from the field where grown, as was common a few years ago. It undoubtedly saves an extra handling of the wheat, and this is its chief advantage. It requires a much larger force of men to work the machine than can be found in many farm neighborhoods. If any delay or a violent prevents threshing half or three quarters of an hour the large force of men is kept idle. Besides, the wide-cylindrical threshers require all the help that can be got near them to keep them always full of grain. While the waggoners are driving up and then away again, the threshing must be stopped one-half minute or more. This delay off repeated counts for something during a day's work.

Mr. P. C. Reynolds in the Tribune advises making several pickings of such varieties of the apple as Early Harvest, Red Astrachan and Sweet Bough. He says that this results in adding 50 per cent to the crop. This shows that the philosophy of the small boy is right, at least as far as benefiting the fruit crop goes. He usually begins to eat early apples before they are half grown. It does not always work well with the boy, however.

CHILDREN AT THE FAIR.

Continued From Third Page.

McKinley out, but she failed to do it, though he broke once, and gave her a chance. Fleetfoot finished third. Time, 2:44.

Jennie took the lead early in the heats with McKinley close behind her. McKinley went to the front at the quarter, and all Jennie's efforts failed to pull him down. Fleetwood appeared to be in the race until the stretch, although he skipped a couple of times, but at the stretch he broke and fell behind to last place. Brown Charlie trotted a steady race, and passed up to second place when Jennie broke in the stretch. The mare lost quite a bit of ground by her unsteadiness. Time, 2:44.

McKinley took the last heat quite handsomely, it being a procession after the first quarter; Jennie, 2; Brown Charlie, 3; and Fleetfoot, 4. Time, 2:44.

SUMMARY.
Bill McKinley..... 3 1 1 1
Jennie..... 1 2 3 2
Fleetfoot..... 2 3 4 4
Brown Charlie..... 4 2 3

Time, 2:44; 2:44; 2:44; 2:44.
Brown Charlie and Fleetfoot divided third money. There were eight starters in the 250 class—open to stallions that made a full season in the stud in 1892—mile heats, best 3 in 5, purse, \$100. The horses were A. Bestoff, Southern Star, West Lorne; F. J. Jarvis, Canada Southern, Delaware; E. Hannou's Stone River, St. Mary's; A. Dunn's Gray Fulon, Lugersoll; Robert Smith's Canada Star, dyde Park; Dan and Lankin's Dunmore, Granton; D. A. McLeod's Murkwood, Woodstock; and W. H. B. Abdallah, Stratford.

It took nearly an hour of tedious work to get the boys off and the start was not particularly good one then. Stone River acted queerly, swerving once or twice, and it looked as if he might cause a bad accident, but the other horses kept out of his way. Canada Southern got the lead and held it by running in the first half. Murkwood trotted past him in the 3rd and the finish between the two was very close one, Canada Southern winning by a neck. Time, 2:39.

The second heat was largely a running race between Canada Southern and Stone River. The latter had the best of the start and did not run so much as his competitor. They were both put back for running, the heat being given to Murkwood, the third heat, all except the two named finishing in a bunch. Abdallah second, Dunmore third and Canada Southern fourth. Time, 2:40.

Stone River got the lead and held it for the rest of the race with an occasional slip and Stone River gave him a pretty brush or two, finishing in front by a nose only. There was a good deal of running between the others. Murkwood took the heat in 2:41. Dunmore 2, Abdallah 3. The others were scattered for running.

With only three in the field, Murkwood went to the front, Abdallah second and Fleetfoot third. Murkwood won the heat in 2:41. Dunmore 2, Abdallah 3.

SUMMARY.
Murkwood..... 2 1 1 1
Dunmore..... 4 2 3 3
Abdallah..... 3 2 3 3
Canada Southern..... 1 5 dis.
Stone River..... 6 6 dis.
Canada Star..... 5 4 dis.
Southern Star..... dis.
Gray Fulon..... dis.

Time, 1:39; 2:40; 2:44; 2:47.
The starters in the open running race were Colonel, owned by Noringraves, of Dayton; Nelson Sage's Longhead, R. J. Brooks' V. N. Sarina, and W. F. Hughes' Kyle. The race was mile heats, best 3 in 3 for a purse of \$100, divided; weights for age.

Colonel had no trouble in winning the first heat, and the only struggle was for second place, which fell to Longhead. The struggle in the next heat was a little fiercer all round. Colonel won the race, with Longhead and Van second and third respectively.

SUMMARY.
Colonel..... 1 1
Longhead..... 2 2
Van..... 3 3
Kyle..... 4 4

Time, 1:50; 1:51; 1:52.
The judging was done by Messrs. D. MacMillan, W. J. Reid and J. R. Minihick. Messrs. B. Vining, J. D. O'Neil and James H. Brown were the time.

The band of the London Cavalry and the Oneida Indian Band furnished music. The rig was free from any crowd and there were no accidents.

MERITORIOUS EXHIBITS.

A Fine Honey Display.
Messrs. J. B. Arbes & Son, of Poplar Hill, Ont., are on hand, as usual, with a magnificent display of honey in comb and extracted, put up in glass and tin, which for quality is not excelled. In the face of unusually strong competition Messrs. Arbes have taken the sweepstakes for general display, first prize for honey vinegar and first for display of queen bees. The exhibit is in the Agricultural Hall.

Every visitor to the fair should make a point of seeing Smith's Imperial Palace of Illusions, located in the building formerly known as the poultry hall. The children, so quick to appreciate a good thing, thronged the Palace all day Saturday and appeared to regard it as the centre of attraction. The collection is a fairly new and includes some of the most marvellous novelties and mysteries and the most puzzling scientific inventions of the day. The Palace is open all day long.

FREE PRESS CORRESPONDENCE.

Hyde Park School.

DEAR SIR,—Having noticed in your paper the splendid work done by some of the schools in Middlesex, my attention is drawn to the Hyde Park School, B. L. Bryant, Principal. The work of this school, I believe, surpassed the work of any other school in East Middlesex. Last year all the pupils sent up to the entrance examination passed; one, Henry Conner, taking the diploma, this year Fred Conner, Henry Wade, Agnes MacKenzie, and Fred Routledge succeeding in passing the entrance. Fred Conner, eleven years of age, took the diploma for the London Township, and Morley Lane, the only scholar coming ahead of him in East Middlesex, is, I understand, near twenty years of age. At the public school leaving and High School primary examinations this school was also very successful. William Brown, Henry Conner and Albert Elson succeeded in passing the leaving examination. William Brown (son of W. L. Brown, London West) taking the diploma for Middlesex. Wm. Brown was also successful at the Primary, being the only county pupil in Middlesex who succeeded in passing. This may be seen from the Hyde Park school, under the management of B. L. Bryant, has become one of the best schools in Middlesex. AN INHABITANT.
Hyde Park, Sept. 15th, 1922.

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THEY'RE WITH US AGAIN.

The Hunting representative of the Leading China, Crockery and Glassware House of the Dominion. On the Tecumseh House register today will be found the names of Messrs. Wm. Gray and T. C. Fleming, the representatives of the well-known china, crockery and glassware house of Gowan, Kent & Co., Toronto. This calls to mind the fact that on the occasion of the last Western Fair these gentlemen opened their samples in Dundas street store and astonished both citizens and visitors with their wonderful display. On inquiry a reporter learned that they are to be with us once more, having rented the large store, 394 Richmond street, where they will have on view a full line of samples. In this connection the following from the Toronto Empire of a recent date will prove of interest: "Messrs. Gowan, Kent & Co., on Front street east, have in their warehouses a high-class quality of china, cut glass goods, lamps and crockery, which they will be glad to have visitors drop in to see, whether with a view to purchase or otherwise. These rooms are really models of decorative art, and have been arranged by some of the best developed artistic sensibilities. The beautiful wares are handsomely set off by silk daperies, while the mirrors, hanging back the electric lights and faithfully reflecting the varied and beautiful things to be seen in its full significance the sentiment which inspired the poet who told mankind that a thing of beauty is a joy forever. The ladies will be especially interested, not only in the cut glass and lamps in the rooms specially fitted up for the purpose of displaying them, but also in the 'chic' Linoges, enfilades and the handsome silk shades and various lines of fancy articles in the large front show room on the second floor. In their warehouse and also in the Main building of the Industrial Fair the firm have a splendid assortment of Pittsburgh lamps, which have received the unreserved encomiums of all who see them. The rooms are well worth a visit, and will repay the time spent in visiting what are acknowledged to be the best china warehouses in America. The firm expect many of their customers and their friends and all others who are interested in china and lamp goods to give them a call."

TIMELY WISDOM.—Great and timely wisdom is shown by keeping Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry on hand. It has no equal for cholera, cholera morbus, diarrhoea, dysentery, etc., cramps and all summer complaints or looseness of the bowels.

Mr. Henry Fortner, a prominent farmer, 12th con, Lobo township, scores amongst the few faithful that are left who participated in the rebellion scenes of 1887 and 88. Mr. Fortner registered and served under Major Orr.

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