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Western Fair Arisen from Its Ashes.

Early on Friday morning, August 29th, just a week before the popular Western Fair, at London, was to open its gates, fire destroyed the Transportation, Manufacturers' and Cement Buildings, together with a large part of the horse barns, entailing a loss represented by \$32,000 insurance. The London City Council and the Western Fair Association took immediate action. They promised to make good the housing and have ample accommodation ready for all exhibits. They proved equal to their word. Mayor Graham jumped into the breach and manned the guns. All the corporation laborers were at once put to work to repair the damage to the city property. Of course President Reid and Manager A. M. Hunt co-operated effectively with the Mayor. The Hydro-Electric Service strung wires Friday afternoon, and by night a hundred and fifty men were at work, the number being afterwards increased as fast as possible. Six prominent contractors took hold and put all their men at work, until two hundred and fifty were on the job. Work was rushed day and night until Sunday at 9 p. m., when it was stopped until Monday morning. The men entered heartily into the spirit of the situation, and did their level best to have the buildings ready for the fair. It was a matter of civic pride. Some three or four hundred thousand feet of lumber were hauled out and knocked together into structures which, if covered over with metal, would answer as permanent

buildings, or, again, could be moved to a new site if one should be later secured. The cost of the new work has been roughly estimated at \$25,000. There is nearly as much accommodation as last year, except for horses, which are very numerous. To show how the work was rushed it may be mentioned that one building about 185 by 33 ft., containing 51 stalls, was started at one p. m. on Friday and finished Saturday morning. The buildings are brilliantly illuminated with 500-Watt tungsten lamps strung through the centres.

Relying upon the assurances of the management, exhibitors responded heartily. Entries are numerous, especially in live stock, where they are away ahead of last year. This is particularly true of the horse exhibits and the speed entries, which latter were double those of 1912. Many of the best herds of cattle and flocks of sheep came forward from Toronto, with others to add zest to the contest. An extra 50 feet on the length of the poultry building was needed for a big growth in this department. Machinery Hall is well filled, with some entries located outside.

The display of vegetables and field roots is quite out of the ordinary. There were many smooth mangels and turnips of immense size, but the meagre exhibit of corn denoted lack of maturity. The first-prize vegetable marrow lacks an inch of being a yard long. It is a variety known as Talbot's Improved, originated by W. H. K. Talbot, gardener at the London

Hospital for the Insane. Mr. Talbot says it is of excellent quality, but the largest specimen he himself ever grew was 33½ inches long. There are samples of squash as big as a barrel, and other things in proportion. In the Horticultural Building are two special exhibits of note, one being that of products from the Asylum farm, and one representing the county of Middlesex, including samples of O. A. C. No 21 barley from "Weldwood," which Mr. Whale, the District Agricultural representative tells us was the best-headed barley he had seen this year. The idea of county, district, and provincial exhibits, comprising collections of products, is a good one, and we should like to see it carried further by the offer of prizes for the best exhibits representing individual farms, the name of exhibitor, farm, township and county to be prominently displayed. The Art Gallery is well filled, also the Main Building, while the midway flourishes as of yore. Any form of amusement or edification may be here secured. Before one tent sits a man and a woman, whom the sign informs us are capable of forecasting the future and reading character by means of palmistry and phrenology. If one does not hit it right, no doubt the other will. It strikes one as a very sure combination.

Altogether the Western Fair, with its numerous high-class entries and its splendid achievement in restoring housing accommodation, should appeal more strongly than ever before, and, at date of writing, it seems to be swinging off to a fine start.

Sherbrooke Exhibition the Best on Record.

"One of the best on record," so frequently heard during the past week, is no exaggeration of this year's Sherbrooke Fair. For the last few years the great Eastern Townships Exhibition has had a hard struggle. The chief opposing factor has been the weather, so much so that rain and Sherbrooke Fair have been looked upon as almost synonymous. This year the executive evidently stole a march on the weather man and the way was open for appreciation of their efforts. That the public were ready to appreciate was manifested in no uncertain way by the record crowds that swarmed the town and the fair grounds. It could not but be gratifying to the management of the fair to feel that they were in a position to give the people their money's worth. Judges, exhibitors, and visitors were agreed that perhaps never before, not barring even the Dominion Exhibition, was there a better all-round exhibit. The old departments showed improvement in character, particularly in uniformity, and were filled to maximum capacity. New departments were added which proved attractive and interesting.

For the executive was heard the greatest praise on all sides. This was no more than due, for many of those who know will agree that perhaps no fair in Canada has more able or energetic men at its head. Exhibitors and judges openly stated that nowhere did they receive more consideration and cordial treatment than in Sherbrooke.

The horse exhibit was a record one in both numbers and quality. Clydesdales were the feature, but Percherons, French Canadian and light horses all had full classes. The Clydesdales, however, had more top-notch horses among their number. R. Ness & Son, of Howick, Quebec, had a full string out, including Sir Spencer and some of his filies, which are well known, and also a few good ones recently imported. The Lennoxville Syndicate showed their two horses which were purchased last spring from Mr. Ness and John Bright, and won second and third, respectively, in strong classes.

No exhibition evidenced more expansion than that of dairy cattle, and uniformly good quality characterized the majority of the herds. Tail-enders were present in a number of the breeds, but in smaller numbers than usual. The Ayrshire breed furnished one of the best-balanced displays on the ground; every class was keenly contested, and in more than one case good judgment could have given varied placings. All the herds were from Quebec, and contributed by the following leading exhibitors: P. D. McArthur, Georgetown, Quebec; J. W. Logan, Howick, Que.; Senator W. Owens, Montebello, Que.; D. T. Ness, Howick, Que.; W. D. Parker, Hatley, Que.; A. Phamef, St. Norbert, Que.; F. J. Parnell, Rock Island, Que.; W. Fisk, Waterville, Que.; Wm. Hutchinson, Danville, Que.

The aged herd was won by P. D. McArthur, on a bunch of very uniform cattle of nice quality. J. W. Logan was second with larger cattle of somewhat coarser type. The aged bulls made a close race between John Logan and Senator Owens, the judge, Mr. Drummond, finally giving

the honors to the somewhat smaller, neater bull, with the most quality, although, in the opinions of some, Mr. Logan's bull's greater size and superior character should have placed him ahead.

The Holstein cattle were not so uniformly fitted as were the Ayrshires, but the classes were filled with cattle of good quality.

The famous herd of Neil Sangster, of Orms-town, received the bulk of the prizes. J. L. Riches, Sherbrooke, Que., exhibited a large herd and took second honors. The smaller exhibits were furnished by J. Parnell, Lennoxville, Que.; J. Harvey, Frelighsburg, Que.; Louis Archambault, Windsor Mills; L. H. Parker, Hatley, Que.; J. J. Alexander, St. Louis Sta., Que., and R. Beamegoid, Ste. Damase, Que. Among the smaller exhibits a number of really good animals competed. No doubt they constituted foundation stock, and Sherbrooke may expect increased exhibits from this source in the future. Mr. Sangster with Holsteins and Mr. Logan with Ayrshires were close rivals for the cup given for display in parade, the award finally going to Sangster.

Jerseys held their own very well, but had it not been for the excellent business herd of C. Ruiter & Sons, of Cowansville, Que., they would have been behind other years, and appeared to much disadvantage with Ayrshires and Holsteins. Mr. Ruiter is not a frequent exhibitor, but he has the goods. E. P. Ball, Rock Island, Que.; J. S. Fearay, Lennoxville, Que.; A. Sylvester, Clarendon, Que., and H. C. Bailey, Cookshire, all contributed good-sized herds.

Guernseys were not equal to the Jerseys, although Hon. Sydney Fisher's herd, of Knowlton, Que.; Guy Carr, Rock Island, Que.; E. P. Ball, of the same place, and J. M. Stevens, of Bedford, Que., had fairly representative herds.

French Canadians made their usual display. Not only were the exhibitors, with the exception of Hooper Bros., of Compton, Que., circuit regulars, but also among the animals shown a number have made many trips, some of which might better be left at home now. Some good cattle were shown, but to one familiar with the showing of this breed from year to year it would seem that not much progress is being made. There were too many weaklings. Guernseys and Jerseys, to some extent, would merit the same criticism. At our larger fairs, especially, fair boards and judges should unite and condemn the showing of scrubs; and while this year Sherbrooke showed improvement in this regard, there were too many inferiors occupying valuable and much-needed space and marring the general exhibits.

In recent years Sherbrooke had a fair exhibit in beef cattle. Angus and Herefords are always limited to very few breeders. This year was no exception, but creditable displays were made. Shorthorns were quite the feature in the beef cattle ring, and it can be fairly said that representatives were out in good numbers which would do credit to the breed in any company. The three chief exhibitors were F. R. Cromwell, Cookshire, Que.; F. Nicolson & Bro., Tyhan, Ont., and O. M. Parker, Lennoxville, Que. Mr. Cromwell's herd

won the cup for the largest and most creditable exhibit of beef cattle. Sixteen head were included in the herd, and not a single inferior animal among the number. Mr. Parker's aged bull won the sweepstakes for the best Shorthorn bull on the ground, and a very nice red two-year-old heifer from the herd of Mr. Nicolson took similar honors among the females. Perhaps the most pleasing feature was the young stock from the different herds. Senior and junior heifer calves, with senior and junior yearlings, made keen high-class competition, and Prof. Barton, of MacDonald College, who placed the awards, had to exercise some close discrimination.

New features among the Shorthorns were introduced. The society offered prizes for milking Shorthorns and a few specials were given as well. The subject of "dairy Shorthorns" is a very live one in this district, and it would seem that the move to emphasize them at the fair is a very wise one. Some very fair individuals were shown by Messrs. Parker and Cromwell.

John Campbell, of Woodville, judged the sheep and in his opinion the exhibit was one of the most uniform and best balanced yet seen at Sherbrooke. A regrettable fact in connection with it is that most of the exhibitors with the best flocks came from Ontario. However, in some classes Quebec breeders held their own fairly well and it might be safely said the exhibit as a whole, and the interest manifested in it were very suggestive of brighter prospects for the golden fleece in this province. The cup for the best exhibit of sheep was won by a high-class flock of Shropshires, exhibited by C. R. Kelsey, Woodville, Ont.

CLYDESDALES.

Awards.—Aged stallions: 1, R. Ness & Son; 2, G. Campbell (Lennoxville Syndicate); 3, Wm. Nussey, Howick, Que. Three-year-olds.—1 and 2, R. Ness & Son; 3, A. Campbell. Two-year-olds: 1 and 3, R. Ness & Son; 2, J. E. Arnold, Grenville, Que. One-year-old.—1, Wm. Nussey. Diploma.—R. Ness & Son, on Sir Spencer. Mares.—3 years or over: 1, R. Ness & Son; 2, A. F. Lyster, Parkdale; 3, J. M. Parker, Lennoxville; Two-year-olds.—1, 2 and 3, R. Ness & Son. One-year-old: 1, A. B. Lyster; 2, B. T. Ingham; 3, Wm. Nussey. Foal, 1913: 1, S. D. Slatker; 2, Wm. Nussey; 3, B. T. Ingham. Brood mare and foal: 1, B. T. Ingham; 2, A. D. Slatker; 3, Wm. Nussey. Female, any age.—Diploma: R. Ness & Son. Stallion, with three of his progeny: R. Ness & Son. Canadian-bred stallion, any age: Wm. Nussey. Canadian-bred mare, any age: B. T. Ingham. Team draft mares, in harness: R. Ness & Son. Single draft mare, in harness: R. Ness & Son. Three Canadian-bred mares: 1, Wm. Nussey; 2, A. B. Lyster; 3, B. T. Ingham.

PERCHERONS.

Aged stallions: 1, J. E. Arnold; 2, G. Gignas, St. Cesaire, Que.; 3, S. Cleland. Stallion 3 years old: 1, James Cherwood; 2 and 3, J. E. Arnold. Stallion, 2 years old: 1, 2 and 3, J. E. Arnold. Stallion, 1 year old: 1, A. Hodges. Best stallion, any age: J. E. Arnold. Mare, 3 years old: 1 and 2, J. E. Arnold. Mare, 2 years old: 1, J. E. Arnold; 2, O. La