

Echoes from the West

Saskatchewan's Spring Show a Success

It was the good fortune of the writer to attend the first Fat Stock Show, Stallion Show and Cattle Sale in May of 1906. The Province at that time was holding its first Legislative Assembly, and although the show then held was in many respects crude, it gave abundant promise of good things to come. This year has marked a marvellous growth in all matters pertaining to advanced agriculture throughout the Province.

Saskatchewan is more than fortunate in her Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. W. R. Mottewell. He is an Ontario Agricultural College graduate, and for many years a practical and exceedingly successful farmer in the Territories. Immediately after his appointment Mr. Mottewell began at once to surround himself with young men, many of whom are graduates of the Ontario Agricultural College, and all with considerable experience in the west, and he, and those with him, threw themselves heart and soul into organizing the Department on lines that will not only be helpful at the present time, but will form a foundation wide enough and strong enough to carry a superstructure that will meet the requirements of the Province for all time to come.

One of the goals of Mr. Mottewell's ambition is to make Saskatchewan a province devoted to mixed farming. He hopes to imbue the farmers of the Province with the unwisdom of keeping all their eggs in one basket, so that Saskatchewan will never reach a time when her broad prairies will not produce abundant crops of wheat. To this end the whole staff of the Department of Agriculture is concentrating, especially on the development of the live stock industry along the lines of breeding pure-bred beef cattle and heavy horses.

The poultry industry and dairy work are also receiving liberal attention.

Perhaps nothing has emphasized the importance attached to live stock, so much as the fact that Regina, which possesses the finest building for the exhibit and sale of live stock and horses in the Dominion of Canada. This building is situated on the fair grounds about three-quarters of a mile west of the city. It is 141 feet long by 100 feet wide and has a seating capacity of about 2,000. It was erected during the past winter at a cost of \$15,000, and was ready for the second annual show.

The show itself was marvellous, considered in the light of the newness of the Province. The first day was devoted to the judging of fat stock. The number of exhibits was not very large. Quite a number of them would have been the better of another month's finishing, but when it is considered that the Canadian West has just passed through the most rigorous winter which it has experienced for 25 years, with an abnormal snowfall, and the consequent difficulties of getting about for feeding and taking care of animals, the stock exhibit made a most creditable showing. There were several steers that would have had no occasion to blush in the Guelph rings. A number of the prize animals were subsequently slaughtered and showed that feeding had been along right lines.

The second day was the Horse Show.

HORSES.

The month of March came in like a lamb, and, fulfilling the old proverb, evidently intends to go out like a lion, but she saved up her very worst temper for the Regina Horse Show. It poured rain, it snowed, it blew, it rained again, and then it snowed and then "The north

wind she blow and blow, and then she blow some more, but in spite of all these drawbacks the attendance was remarkable, and everybody stayed until the very last horse was judged. It was a sight worth going quite a distance to see; not so much on account of the numbers, but because of the very fine quality of the exhibits.

There is nothing that awakens as much interest among the live stock men of the Canadian West as a good class of aged Clydesdale stallions. There were five brought into the ring at Regina, and everybody resolved that judge Geo. Gray was up against a very difficult task in the placing of them. He was assisted by Mr. Kydd. The horses were trotted up and down, and when the choice for first narrowed down to two the excitement was intense, for it happened that the choice for first place had laid between the same two stallions in the previous year. Finally the red ribbon was placed on Perpetual Motion, owned by Bryce, of Arcola, a horse which, as a two-year-old, was first at the Highland Society's Show. He is a magnificent animal, and has never appeared in better shape. The decision was greeted with round after round of applause.

The blue ribbon went to Baron's Gem, which held first last year. He is a grand horse, and has a splendid record in the West, but he was not in as perfect condition as usual. First and second honors having been awarded, interest in the Silver Clink, which came third. It was his first appearance in Canada, having recently been imported by Messrs. Galbraith & Sons. He is a very handsome, showy black, has good action, but he is at present a trifle lacking in heart girth. Bulwark came fourth; he is a big, heavily muscled Clyde, but lacking in style. Baron Kerr won fifth place. The class, taken as a whole, was good. In the section for stallions foaled in 1904 much interest was taken. First honors went to Stepend (imp.), owned by Mutch Bros., of Lumsden. He was sired by Everlasting, and is a horse with lots of quality and masculinity. The Messrs. Mutch were originally the importers of Baron's Gem, and this horse is to take his place at the head of their stud. He is, perhaps, one of the most promising Clydesdales ever brought to the country. In the two-year-olds, Baron of Arcola, owned by Bryce, of Arcola, is another horse of great promise, in fact, he so nearly conforms to the best Clyde type that it is difficult to suggest a fault in him.

Not only was the show of stallions a particularly fine one, but the classes for females were exceptionally good. Among the matrons, Lady Rolta, owned by Bryce of Arcola, secured the red ribbon. Flossie, owned by Galbraith, the champion at Kansas City horse show, came second. She is a beautiful mare, and was sold the following day to A. S. Potter, of Warmley, for \$850. Another class that was well filled was mares foaled in 1905; there were no less than nine in the ring and as judge Gray remarked, "not a poor one in the bunch." The number of young females shown was most encouraging, as it indicated an increase in demand for pure-bred dams as well as pure-bred sires.

Saskatchewan owes a great deal to such men as Mutch Bros., of Lumsden, and Bryce, of Arcola, who have been willing to invest large sums of money in importing high class stock and take their chances in a market. It is a pleasure to record that there is such a market now, and that an excellent one. Saskatchewan puts her faith in Clydes.

Prizes were offered for Shires, but there were no entries; also for Percherons, but the number of entries was very small, and in light horses there were but three. The lack of light horses was a little surprising, because there are a large number of handsome saddle horses and drivers in Saskatchewan; but the breeders, it is thought, seem to be concentrating their energies on Clydes, for which there is a growing market.

CATTLE.

The third day of the show was devoted to the sale of pure-bred cattle. Shorthorns are as popular with cattle-men as Clydes are with the horsemen. This is only the second sale held, and to Easterners there was much that might be criticized adversely, both in the quality and condition of the animals offered, but it was a great improvement on the sale of 1906 in both these respects, and to those familiar with western conditions it made a very good showing. A number of bulls offered were of excellent type, one man, Mr. James Chymie, of Manor, made an average of \$114 for seven bulls. These were the best. The average of the sale was \$91.42, which shows plainly the value of animals of good quality.

In the sheep and swine classes the exhibits were not numerous, but the quality was good. Some of the bacon hogs shown by A. B. Potter, of Montgomery, were of almost perfect bacon type.

Saskatchewan has in the person of Mr. James Murray, superintendent of Fairs, and Institutes, an official that it would be very hard to excel. He is also secretary of the Live Stock Association.

The Regina Fair grounds are well situated and large enough to have in connection with them stock yards, and it is the aim of the association to erect adequate yards in the near future, and to concentrate all the live stock interests of the province at that point. At the time of the summer fair more liberal prizes than heretofore will be offered in the cattle and horse classes. The pavilion already referred to is admirably situated on the fair grounds and will be valuable in winter or summer for live stock demonstrations.

Saskatchewan is, perhaps, more than any of the new Provinces, adapted for mixed farming, and it is impossible to estimate the value to the Province of the agricultural campaign now being carried on by the Department. Classes for judging stock have been held during the winter months at many points, practical addresses have been delivered, literature distributed, and the farmers now seem thoroughly awakened to the splendid opportunities that lie before them.

C. H.

It is a fact not generally taken into account, because but imperfectly understood, that pure, fresh, cold water is one of the most valuable of all refreshments, inasmuch as it is a powerful absorbent. Every sick room should have a large vessel of clear water frequently renewed, placed near the bed, even beneath it. This not only absorbs much of the hurtful vapor, but by its evaporation it softens and tempers the atmosphere, doing away with the dryness which is so trying and depressing to an invalid, or even to persons in health, for that matter. It has frequently been shown by actual experience that troubled sleep and threatened insomnia are corrected by so simple a thing as the placing of an open bowl of water near the sufferer's bed. On the same principle, water which has been standing in an open vessel in a sleeping room or a sick room should under no conditions be used for drinking; nor should any liquid intended as a beverage be allowed to stand open to contamination.