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REGINA EXHIBITION SUCCESSFUL

The otherwise outstanding success of Regina Exhibition was this year marred by a disastrous fire which caused \$50,000 in damage, burning both the grand stand and the industrial building. No fatalities occurred though the grandstand was crowded and there were 20,000 people on the grounds. No livestock was burned though a great lot of valuable furs were consumed in the industrial building. It is rather remarkable that there was no greater loss. Manager Elderkin and the fair directorate deserve the sympathy of the people of all the West though of course the buildings will be replaced and Regina fair go on as before. The fire is supposed to have started from a match, cigar or cigarette dropped through the stand on to dry material underneath.

Many and splendid were the different exhibits, farm machinery, college, farm boys' clubs, wool and livestock.

The Agricultural College exhibit from Saskatoon was unusually good. The poultry, engineering, field husbandry and animal husbandry departments were all well represented. In the mechanical display were charts and models of binder knotters, belt lacing, knots, hitches, etc., that were all intensely interesting to the farmer. Desirable and undesirable types of poultry houses were shown. Brooders and incubators and good poultry feeds made up the poultry end. A most carefully arranged and good selection of grains, grasses and excellent posters characterized the field husbandry department. The effect of good sires and careful thought and study in breeding livestock was fully demonstrated by the animal husbandry department, with sheep, with

cattle and with hogs. Lucid lessons on economical pork production attracted constant attention from the farmers.

The Dominion Experimental Farms also had most instructive exhibits. Improved egg marketing was well demonstrated by a splendid exhibit from the Dominion Department of Agriculture and the same department had its usual good display of wool on hand.

Two hundred and fifty farm boys from the various clubs throughout the province were present in charge of J. Rayner, B.N.A. district representative at North Battleford.

All the livestock exhibits were well filled with few exceptions. In some breeds the number of local exhibitors were not as great as at some Western exhibitions, but the quality was generally high.

Shorthorn classes were not as well filled as at some of the shows. Herefords and Angus exhibitors were much the same as at Brandon. Clydesdales were high in quality as also were Percherons.

The fair all told was one of the most successful Regina has ever had, and the management is deserving of commendation. The fire disaster will make a big handicap for next year.

R. MCKENZIE NOMINATED AT BRANDON

At a convention attended by over 150 delegates from the constituency of Brandon, which includes the City of Brandon and a large part of the surrounding country, on August 2, Rodrick McKenzie, secretary of The Canadian Council of Agriculture, was chosen to contest that seat in the coming Federal election. There was a large representation of labor, indeed almost half the convention was made up of labor men. Nine names came before the meeting, three of whom withdrew. The strongest candidate with Mr. McKenzie was Rev. A. E. Smith of Brandon, representing labor interests, but Mr. McKenzie's nomination was made unanimous after the final polling.

The Farmers' Platform was read and adopted en toto, after which a resolution was carried unanimously asking for immediate conscription of men and material for the purpose of winning the war. All the speakers, with the exception of one lady favored conscription of men, provided that full conscription of excess profits is carried out at the same time. Otherwise none of the men could bring themselves to support men conscription only. One lady speaker

was frankly opposed to conscription of any kind.

The committee appointed to call together the convention was made up of six farmers, five representatives of labor, and four ladies. There was a large attendance of ladies from the country, and at the preliminary nomination committee meeting there were more labor representatives present than those of any other class. The labor men are endeavoring to organize the labor interests in Brandon, Souris, Estevan and other places where there are branches of the labor unions. This getting together of farmers and labor in this most important election is very significant.

After thanking the convention for the honor conferred upon him, Mr. McKenzie emphasized the fact that he had the interests of the labor men at heart just as much as he had the interests of the farmers. He requested immediate action and organization, the throwing off of party affiliations, and consideration of the interests of the whole mass of the people.

GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER C. N. R.

Ottawa, August 1.—The government announced today that it would take over the entire Canadian Northern Railway system, including branch lines, terminals and elevators at Port Arthur, steamship lines, telegraph and express services and hotels. It also announced that further aid to the extent of \$7,500,000 would be given to the Grand Trunk Pacific, the government exercising control with a view to the possible ultimate nationalization of that railway also.

The Canadian Northern is capitalized at \$100,000,000. The public of Canada already holds \$40,000,000 interest in it. The Finance Minister announced that the value of the remaining \$60,000,000 will be decided by a board of three, one each to be appointed by the government and the railway and the third to be agreed on by the two, but should they fail to reach an agreement the third member will be appointed by the Senior Judge of the Exchequer Court. Should these find themselves unable to reach a decision as to the value of the \$60,000,000 stock, the matter will be referred to the Supreme Court. He also explained that the management would be vested in a board appointed by the governor in council, but there would be no interference between the board of management and the employees.

Shareholders No Real Equity

In the Drayton Ackworth Commission report on the C.N.R. it was stated that the shareholders had no equity in the road. That report said: "We conclude, therefore, that the shareholders of the company have no equity, either on the ground of cash put in, or on the ground of reconstruction cost, or on the ground of the saleable state of their property as a going concern. If then the people of Canada have already obtained, or assumed responsibility for the bulk of the capital, if they must needs find what further amount is required, and if they must make up for some years to come a considerable deficit in the net earnings, it seems logical to follow that the people of Canada should assume control of the property." The same report established that the total amount of money that could possibly have gone into the C.N.R. system is \$370,362,451. Out of this possible total a sum of no less than \$298,253,263 is shown to have been provided by public credit or subsidy. The report pointed out that the total present value of the C.N.R. holdings was \$492,749,663. The outstanding obligations of the road exceed \$400,000,000, so that as stated above, the shareholders have no real equity in this road. The government grants to the Canadian Northern Railway have been as follows:

Subsidies	\$ 38,874,148
Land grants	31,379,400
Cash loans	25,858,160
Securities guaranteed	199,145,140
Total public assistance	\$295,256,848

The Grand Trunk

In giving the Grand Trunk Pacific a grant of \$7,500,000, the minister of finance said the government would take the power to constitute a board of directors of the Grand Trunk Pacific, and would look forward to some day ac-

quiring the system, because the G.T.P. and C.N.R. could well co-operate to give better service. It would take too long negotiations with the Grand Trunk at present. But the government did not intend to release the Grand Trunk from its obligations in regard to the Grand Trunk Pacific.

The food controller and representatives of the milling interests met at Ottawa on July 30 to discuss the relation of the price of wheat to flour and flour to bread. The discussion embraced the subjects of the milling of flour in relation to the production of a straight grade flour, the retention of the present standards, the effect that the fixing of prices of wheat would have on the production of flour, and the matter of the offals (bran and middlings) in relation to their value as cattle feeds and their effect upon the price of flour.

After a careful consideration of the whole matter, the representatives of the Grain Export company advised that the definite action be delayed until the American food administration was in a position to take action in the United States.

A committee of eight millers was appointed to act in an advisory capacity to the food controller on these matters.

At the Western Canada Irrigation Convention at Maple Creek on August 2, Hon. W. R. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan, announced that legislation would be introduced soon to enable farmers in Saskatchewan to co-operate for irrigation purposes, as is now done in Alberta. He intimated that the legislation would probably be along the lines of that already in existence for drainage purposes.

At least ten men are known to have perished in the forest fire that swept through the Spruce River Valley 11 miles north-east of Fernie last Saturday. Millions of feet of logs, the logging railway and bush camp building together with equipment, horses and supplies, are a total loss. The fire was finally checked by showers.

The worst railway wreck in the history of the Edmonton district occurred on July 29, 21 miles west of the city on the C.N.R. near Villeneuve. A freight train eastbound crashed into a moonlight special crowded with passengers for Alberta Beach. Five were killed, four seriously injured, and a number of others less seriously.

A tremendous new offensive launched by the British and French along the sea coast promises to develop into one of the most stupendous battles of the whole war. The allies appear to be endeavoring to force the Germans back in this area, and thereby to capture territory in which there are now supposed to be a number of submarine bases. With these cleaned out, the depredations of the submarines would be hindered to a considerable extent. The artillery action is by long odds the most tremendous of the war, and the tide of battle has been swaying left and forth with varied success on both sides for several days. On the whole the Allies have made a good advance along a very wide front.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture is establishing a new Dominion Experimental Farm at Beaver Lodge, Alberta, 25 miles from Lethbridge in the Peace River country. This is the only new farm to be started since the war. It will commence with 30,000 acres of land. W. D. Albright, formerly editor of "The Farmers' Advocate," Lethbridge, Ontario, and now farming in the Peace River country, will be in charge of the farm.

An Ottawa dispatch says that the food controller, with the special fish committee, intends to provide refrigerated car service from both Atlantic and Pacific Coast points to facilitate the shipment and greater consumption of central Canada's fish from the coast. The first car will leave the Atlantic coast on Saturday, August 4, with fresh caught fish, and arrive at Toronto Monday morning, August 6. Later on a train from the Pacific coast to points will be provided.



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