

which needs no embellishment. The buffalo has vanished, and only their deep-cut trails on the prairie, grass-grown and forsaken, with here and there a pile of bones, remain to remind us that they once held high carnival here. The broncho was in evidence still, but only as a plaything for those who took part in the Polo games, and for the use of the cowboys who gave exhibitions of their skill in roping a range steer.

It seemed as if all the Indians that were left had gathered at Regina, and their canvas "tepees" on the prairie outside the city and their camp-fires or "smudges" at night, formed a fitting frame for the interesting picture of industrial skill embodied in Exhibition Park. But, lo! the poor Indian steps softly and "sings dumb" in the presence of such artful innovations, and seems to sadly realize that his glory has departed.

A rapid run to the ranching grounds of Southern Alberta gave us a new revelation of the vast extent and mighty possibilities of this "country of magnificent distances." The outlook from the train as one rushes on day after day and night after night, over seemingly unlimited areas of prairie land, grass-covered and flower-bedecked, reminds one of that of the ocean, bounded only by the ever-receding horizon. The range country is admirably adapted to the purpose for which it is being used—that of raising and fattening cattle. Rich and nutritious pastures in almost unlimited extent, a plentiful supply of water in clear running creeks, and friendly hills for shelter from the winter winds, seem to fill the bill for a bovine paradise, and here

Ontario shows, were in good healthy condition, and their owners seemed to have no doubts about the adaptability of the country to successful sheep husbandry. Most of the breeds were fairly well represented, and the prizes were widely distributed. We did not see any large bands of sheep, but we met several ranchmen at Calgary who informed us they had flocks in that district numbering from 500 to 7,000 head, and they were doing well, were entirely free from disease, and required but little attention.

Hog-raising is receiving increased attention, and the display of swine at the fairs was large and fine; much better than we expected to see. With wheat as cheap as it has been the last two years, the farmers have learned that a better way to market it is to convert it into pork, and even with higher prices for wheat, there is generally some damaged grain and much, with their extravagant way of handling it, which would be wasted, and could profitably be consumed by hogs. The general feeling is that hog-raising, in connection with dairying and cheap grain, will be an important factor in the future returns of the farm.

We have in the past been wont to think of the glory of Manitoba and the Northwest as being embodied only in their great wheat fields, but experience and observation is fast teaching the lesson that safer than wheat to the farmer, even there, is a dependence upon live stock and live stock products. These are not so much dependent upon the fickle record of seasons and temperature, seldom fail to make a fair return, and hardly ever prove a failure even for a year. That the farmers of Mani-

are doing good work for the country in the way of testing many varieties of grain, roots, and grasses, as well as live stock, and ascertaining their adaptability to the soil and climate of the country. The Government has been fortunate in its selection of superintendents for these stations, and in Mr. Bedford, at Brandon, and Mr. McKay, at Indian Head, have men who are, in all respects, well-qualified for the important duties assigned to them, and who take pleasure in showing to visitors the work they have accomplished, which is exceedingly creditable to them, considering the comparatively short history of these institutions.

Of course we saw the country at its very best, in an exceptionally propitious season, with its broad areas of waving grain, well-nigh ripe unto the harvest, and truly it is a wonderful crop, but making due allowance for all its drawbacks, we are fully convinced that it is a long way better country than Eastern people generally give it credit for being. There is a large amount of unreasonable prejudice entertained in the minds of many people in the older Provinces against the younger, and we are willing to believe that time will show that those who have faith in the future of the West will not be disappointed. The possession of such a vast extent of fertile land lying all ready for the plow, with a healthy climate, and ready means of ingress and egress, is a heritage of which any nation may well be proud, and for which we, as a people, should be grateful to a beneficent Providence.

A word with regard to the character of the people, and I have done. Here we find no sign of



A TYPICAL WEST HIGHLANDER.

we find it all. Perhaps nowhere is the aphorism "blood will tell" more strikingly exemplified than among these range cattle, where pure-bred bulls of the beef breeds have been introduced, and have stamped their likeness in color, form and finish upon their produce from the native and grade cows of the common. This mainly accounts for the fact that one firm of exporters has, within the past year, shipped from these districts over one hundred train loads of finished bullocks fit for the British market. For these a uniform price of forty dollars a head was paid, which would seem to be a paying business for the ranchmen, since the expense for feed is almost nil. But these men need to call a halt and beware of the consequences of a course they are drifting into—that of raising grade bulls, which they freely admit is already impairing the quality of their cattle, as they confess that they have not as good cattle now as they had ten years ago. Then rich companies were investing in good bulls, which made their mark, but failing dividends, in many cases the result of mismanagement, drove some from the field, and low prices, during years of depression, discouraged others, and these grew careless about keeping up the standard of sires. Bulls of mongrel blood were allowed to run, the old veterans of the harem have had their day and are dead, and degenerate sons have lowered the standard of excellence in a few short seasons.

A large portion of Manitoba and most of the Northwest seems to be well adapted to sheep raising, and those exhibited at the fairs, though not in the high form we are used to seeing them in at the

toba have already taken an intelligent view of the situation is manifest from the information given in a late bulletin of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, which estimates that the yield of oats, barley and flax will exceed in yield of bushels the entire wheat crop of the Province, even in this unusually fortunate season for wheat, which, in the average of years, is an uncertain quantity. From the same source we learn that there are now nineteen creameries in the Province, most of which are operated on the co-operative plan. Twelve of these began operation this year. The smallest output of any one of these is 200 pounds per day, and the largest 1,000 pounds, the average being 430. There are 12 cheese factories, of which 20 were established this year. The daily output is from 200 to 1,000 pounds, and the average 450. We were not a little surprised to learn that in the district of Calgary, nearly 900 miles west of Winnipeg, there are no fewer than six creameries, which are supplemented by skimming stations at long distances from the factories, where separators are in operation, the farmers taking the milk home for their calves, while the cream goes to the factory. The product of these creameries, we were told, had been sold for nineteen cents per pound. And as far north as Edmonton we found a creamery in full swing, supported by outlying skimming stations, and the product for June had been sold for sixteen cents per pound at the factory.

The Experimental Farms, established by the Dominion Government, at Brandon and Indian Head, we found in first-class condition, and they

the crudeness which generally characterizes a pioneer people, but a bright, intelligent and enterprising population, made up largely of the most courageous of the sons of Ontario, up to date in everything, a healthy, happy, hopeful people, true to themselves, to their country, and to the great destiny which seems to await them. The broad expanse of country and the bracing atmosphere seems to have the effect of broadening the minds of the people, and we find here a happy freedom from the narrow sentiments of party, sect and creed, and the petty gossip which is the bane of our Eastern society. The men of the West take a broader and more comprehensive view of life and its responsibilities, and seem to believe with Burns that "man to man, the world o'er, should brothers be and a' that." As they look out upon their almost boundless domain and contemplate its superlative possibilities, they seem to realize that "no pent up Utopia is ours," but a half-hemisphere of God-given soil, which will yet furnish homes for millions, and when it is all brought into cultivation will be capable of feeding and clothing a world of people.

West Highland Cattle.

The subject of the accompanying illustration is what the judges of the Highland breed at the Highland and Agricultural Society's Show at Dumfries considered the champion of his sort shown this year. Valentine XL (1160), the son of Ceatharnacle and Phroiseag Buidhe, by the Pollaloch bull Coirintee. The Scottish Farmer says that "he was a clear winner, having greatly improved since