



THE COLUMBIA FLOUR MILLS, ENDERBY, B. C.

effective in making the marketing of this season's product any easier than heretofore. Elevators are all right in their place; but it is facilities for getting to Port Arthur and Fort William that are most needed. What is needed most at present is a double track to these points. More sidings and easier curves will, of course, be quite a help, but they cannot compare with the benefits to be derived from the double line. There is, probably, not to-day a single line in Canada or the United States from which so much is expected where a double track has not been laid, and it is surprising that the C. P. R., at least, does not adopt a more progressive policy in this connection.

Showing Grains and Grasses at the Winnipeg Industrial.

BY GEO. HARCOURT, B. S. A., REGINA, ASSA.

Seeing that this issue of your valuable paper is a special exhibition number, I may be pardoned for referring to a feature of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition that has always been a disappointment to visitors and a heartbreak to the management. I refer to the miserable exhibits of grains, grasses, roots and vegetables—I suppose it would be more appropriate to say lack of exhibits—for year by year the exhibits in the agricultural hall have fallen away until they are almost a minus quantity. It is true that the fair comes at a time when it is difficult to get good exhibits of these things, but instead of supinely accepting the situation, should not a greater effort be made to get out more exhibits? If the exhibits of horses or cattle dwindled away in like manner would the management suffer it? Would interest in the races be allowed to lag? I think not. Something would be done. More money would be put up as prizes for horses and cattle, so that breeders would be induced to fill the stables to overflowing; the races would be made so novel and interesting that people would be interested in spite of themselves. Isn't that so? Then why not follow the same policy with regard to the exhibits in the agricultural and horticultural halls?

Our export of grain is far in excess of any other thing we send out. In fact, I am safe in saying that the money value of the grain shipped from our prairies is ten times that of all our live-stock products. This country is known far and wide for her No. 1 hard wheat—not for her beef cattle. But at the Winnipeg Exhibition, where is the showing of the grain that has made this country famous? Reference to this year's prize-list may throw some light on the question. The following figures show the amounts, in round numbers, offered in several of the leading classes:

Live Stock—

Races	\$9,760.00
Horses	3,110.00
Cattle	4,390.00
Sheep	1,050.00
Swine	1,290.00
Poultry	1,040.00
Stock judging	107.00

\$20,747.00

Grains, Seeds, Grasses, etc.—

Grains	\$431.00
Seeds	100.00
Fruits	90.00
Roots	

\$621.00

I admit at the outset that there is a great deal to be said in favor of encouraging the production of live stock, but will the above statement stand successful criticism? I fancy it will cause some astonishment, at least. Of the amount offered for grain, only \$115 is contributed by the Exhibition Association, the balance is made up by donations from the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. and the Imperial Bank. Has not the time come when the prizes for grains, grasses, native fruits and roots should be increased?

Owing to the time at which the exhibition is

held, it is impossible to have present any of this year's wheat, hence exhibits must be held over till the following year. A \$100 first-prize looks like a very big one for a 25-bushel lot of wheat, but after all is it, when it has to be held for nearly a year? In view of the difficulties in the way of getting out exhibits, should not the prizes be increased? In the prize for the 25-bushel lot there are only two awards, a first and a second; should there not be a good third and fourth as well?

Then with our fresh native fruits, why not encourage the exhibit of them as much as possible? That we can grow them, and successfully too, everyone knows. Why cannot our horticultural society take the best samples shown at their exhibition and preserve them in a suitable solution, to be shown in glass bottles at the Winnipeg Industrial the following year? More people from a distance would see this exhibit than visit the horticultural show, and thus the possibilities of fruit-growing on our prairies would be widely advertised.

With roots we are up against a more difficult problem. It is impossible to grow them to any size by the middle of July. But why could not the Horticultural Society do the same with these exhibits as with the fruits? Or a little later when roots have reached full perfection have them sent in to the manager of the exhibition in competition for liberal prizes. They can be judged at once by capable men, and then placed in cold-storage until exhibition week the next year. If that will not preserve them, they can be kept in a suitable solution. In this way the visiting public can get a very accurate idea of the capabilities of our soil. With vegetables it is more difficult still, but something could be done.

I endorse what has been said in your columns about a Dominion Exhibition. Our country is entering on a new era. Thousands will visit the West for the first time this summer, and I am sure will be disappointed in the exhibits from our fertile prairie soil. For the sake of the impression made upon the newcomers, should there not be a good exhibit of grasses, grains and seeds at our leading exhibition? The Dominion Immigration Department should lend a strong assisting hand, as has been suggested.

A SUGGESTION.

In view of the talk about a Dominion Exhibition, and the further fact that the management of the Winnipeg Industrial agrees to carry exhibits free of charge, I have the following suggestion to make:

Some years ago the Industrial offered a prize to the various agricultural societies for the best collective exhibit made by them. A few good exhibits were sent in, but interest soon fell away when the exhibition became a summer one and the prize was discontinued. The fundamental idea in this prize was a worthy one, and just in line with a Dominion Exhibition, because if an exhibit could be secured from a number of societies there could be nothing better to set forth the capabilities of the various districts of the West.

A handsome prize is offered for a similar exhibit at the annual exhibition of the National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland, Australia. It is for the best collection of exhibits produced and manufactured within its own district; sent in by the secretary of an agricultural society. In all \$1,500.00 is offered in



LEDUC'S FLOUR MILLS.