

FIELD NOTES

Road Contest Awards

The first split-log drag competition held in Western Canada has demonstrated beyond a doubt that the split-log drag, though inexpensive and unpretentious in appearance, is an implement that should be in use in every municipality in the West. The contest makes it clear that clay roads on the prairies can be kept smooth at little cost.

The awards as announced at a meeting of the association are:—In Assiniboia: 1, John Bourke, St. James; 2, A. E. Lonsdale, Headingly. In Rosser: 1, J. N. Taylor, Mount Royal; 2, Geo. Clark, Lilyfield; 3, D. Childerhose, Rosser. In Springfield: 1, Geo. Miller, Jr., Cook's Creek; 2, W. J. Black, Springfield; 3, Arthur Cook, Dundee. In St. Andrews: 1, Geo. Larter, Parkdale; 2, Wm. Norquay, Clandeboye; 3, R. Muckle, Clandeboye.

Details, including the judges' report and illustrations showing dragged and undragged roads, will be given in a later issue. The cash prizes totalled \$200, one half of which was donated by THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Work of Education Commission

Great interest is being taken in the work of the Royal Commission appointed by the Dominion government to investigate matters relating to technical education and industrial training. Dr. J. W. Robertson is chairman. For some time past evidence has been taken in Eastern Canada. In the Maritime provinces the particulars furnished a series of revelations to the members, and an educational thought-quickness to the communities visited. Provincial governments, educational leaders, town business men, farmers and municipal authorities have united in their efforts to make the tour fruitful in benefit to the people by facilitating the study of local conditions by the commission and their search after facts.

At Hillsboro, P. E. I., a great treat was enjoyed in the visit to the Macdonald Consolidated School, the demonstration work in school-gardening and manual training, as part of the rural school education, exciting favorable opinion. Rev. Dr. Bryce, of Winnipeg, expressed himself with great delight over the air of prosperity and contentment pervading the community. The chairman, Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, made a happy plea for taking advantage of the child's inherent love of labor as a principle and method of education, and described the farmer as a partner with the Almighty.

At St. John, N. B., Ernest A. Schofield called the attention of the commission to the imperative need of the rural youth for instruction relating to farm improvement. That improved methods were required, he said, was shown by the statement that, while the price of milk remained about what it was twenty years ago, the cost of producing it had increased about eighty per cent.

Geo. Raymond, of King's county, found, in cow-testing, keeping records, drainage and alfalfa-growing effective means of increasing his profits. John B. Cudlip, of the York and Cornwall Cotton Mills, believed in the personal contact of teachers with pupils as more effective than the correspondence school plan.

By other witnesses, a great deal was said in favor of training in domestic science and homemaking, of which a host of girls were growing up in lamentable ignorance. Too many subjects on the curriculum only a smattering of them taught, boys and girls leaving school unable to write or spell properly, too many men trying to fish and farm at the same time, and doing neither properly; too many boys and girls employed prematurely in industrial life; boys drifting out of public school earlier than girls, with little education, and that of a faulty nature; more physics and less Latin instruction needed in the conservation of fishing-ground, and improved methods in fish culture and curing; men with 300 and 400 acres of land, and not one properly worked; waste of much cash in artificial fertilizers through lack of knowledge in their use and oversight of the trade; lack of appreciation of farming by farmers themselves; no serious effort made by many to really interest the youth in farm life; progress of consolidated schools hindered by their cost; public school curriculum driving the pupils to the colleges and professions; many manufacturers not yet awakened to the value of industrial training—were among the points brought out.

Chas. W. Bleakney, an I. C. R. machinist, offered the suggestion that the status of industrial life would be greatly enhanced, if, in connection with trade education, diplomas or degrees were granted.

W. B. Mackenzie, chief engineer on the I. C. R., described what seemed to him an ideal educational scheme in Cincinnati, where students spent "week about" in a college and an industrial establishment, thus combining theory and practice till the completion of their course.

Dr. W. S. Carter, chief superintendent of education for New Brunswick, stated that manual training was a help, rather than a hindrance to students in their other work. In examinations, scholars who took manual training, domestic science and school

gardening did just as well as those who did not. A small farm in each county, leased, with a man in charge, as is done in Japan, would awaken interest and prove a valuable object lesson. Normal schools should be schools of method, not scholastic. Short courses in dairying, school gardening, etc., for teachers should be given in the Normal Schools. Common school chemistry should be purely agricultural.

Commissioners' Duties

The issue of the *Manitoba Gazette*, September 17, announces the appointment of a commission to enquire into and investigate matters relating to technical education. Following is an outline of the details to be investigated:

- The needs of the people of the province engaged in industrial callings other than agriculture, by way of vocational or industrial training;
- The industries of the province with a view to finding the needs of each in so far as these needs can be served by technical or vocational training;
- The extent to which educational agencies already in existence serve as a preparation for the industrial and commercial activities of the country;
- The modifications in existing agencies that may be necessary to make them serve more completely the purpose of vocational training;
- The extent to which it may be necessary to organize new educational agencies aiming only at vocational training;
- How far it may be found advisable to provide technical education for young people still in the schools, and how far similar provision should be made in the way of evening technical schools for people engaged in industrial pursuits during the day;
- Such other matters and things incident to, connected with or arising out of all and singular the premises that in the opinion of the commissioners it may be deemed desirable to investigate and enquire into;
- To recommend to the government of the province a system or plan for establishing such technical or industrial schools or colleges as the circumstances of the province will admit.

The commission comprises: Hon. G. R. Coldwell, B. A., K. C.; Daniel McIntyre, M. A.; G. A. Lister,

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W. J. Black, F. C. Chambers, J. Yuill, R. S. Ward, R. A. Rigg, Rev. J. S. Woodsworth, W. J. Bartlett, Isaac F. Hafenbrak, W. W. Miller, George Seal, H. J. Irwin, E. Fulcher, W. H. Head, Henry Sampson, R. J. Buchanan, R. Fletcher, Mrs. A. W. Puttee, Miss A. B. Juniper, and Melbourne Christie.

No Redress for Owners of Stock Killed

When the railway commission met at Winnipeg last week the complaints of a large number of farmers who have had stock killed on the railways, either because the lines were not fenced or because the cattle guards were defective, were presented by the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association. Farmers were present from all parts of the province with claims aggregating several thousand dollars. One farmer on the Canadian Northern had lost \$1,500 worth of stock, and had not been paid for it. Others had lost from one or two to ten or fifteen head, and could get no satisfaction from the railway company. Judge Mabee told the complainants that nothing practically could be done in the present circumstances to gain redress. This question of defective cattle guards and the liability of the railway for stock killed from having strayed over these defective guards onto the track, had been considered by the commission all over the country. The Dominion law requires that railways shall provide proper guards, but the railway companies have not complied with the law. Mr. Mabee was of the opinion that the companies should be compelled to pay for the stock killed, but in the matter the railway commission had no power or jurisdiction. He advised farmers to take their grievance to parliament and have laws framed that would meet the requirements of the situation. Said the chairman:

"During the last six months I have ridden on trains through hundreds of miles of country, where there was no sign of a fence on the railway, and

where there were horses and cattle grazing on the adjacent land on both sides. If the railway companies do not observe the law, the result will be that parliament will be driven to the enactment of extreme legislation, such as has been enacted in some of the American states. No one was even foolish enough to suggest that railway lines through wild country should be fenced, but in districts where cattle are grazing, the fences must be built."

First Annual Fair at Cochrane

The district that lies between Calgary and the mountains known as the Cochrane district, supported this year, on September 16th, its first annual exhibition. Mixed farming is carried on to a great extent in these parts, and the splendid exhibition of agricultural products found at the fair proves that the district is well adapted for such methods of agriculture. It is not too much to say that exhibits of grain and vegetables would have done credit to a show making much larger pretensions. Cook Bros., progressive farmers of the district, won the silver cup offered for the best single farm display. Their collection was a good one, comprising grasses, vegetables and grain, both in sheaf and threshed. They attribute their success this year to frequent cultivation during the growing season, and the fall preparation of the land in readiness for the crop.

The exhibit of live stock was in keeping with the rest of the exhibition. The management deserve credit for the success of their first annual fair.

Events of the Week

T. E. M. Banting, of Wawanesa, Man., was awarded \$3,353 damages in suit against the C. P. R. The buildings of the plaintiff were destroyed by fire, a spark from a locomotive being the cause.

The National Conservation Commission will hold a conference shortly to consider important matters connected with public health. Premiers of all the provinces and representatives of departments of health will attend. The convention has been called for October 12.

The cholera epidemic which, originating in southern Russia, has claimed already upwards of 100,000 victims, is stretching its way across Asiatic Russia, and is officially declared to threaten the province of Amur, in southeast Siberia, and separated by the Amur River from Manchuria. To date there has been a total of 182,327 cases of the disease and 83,613 deaths.

Customs and excise returns for the last fiscal year show an enormous increase in the production of cigarettes for consumption in Canada. Production last year totalled no less than 469,711,091, an increase of about one hundred million over the year previous. It might be noted also that this increase is despite the anti-cigarette legislation of the Dominion parliament two sessions ago.

The annual report of the Canadian Pacific Railway was issued September 13. The gross earnings of the road were \$94,989,490, the working expenses \$61,149,534, and the net earnings, \$33,839,955. The sale of agricultural land during the year aggregated 975,030 acres, yielding \$14,468,564, or an average of \$14.84 per acre. This included 145,421 acres of irrigated land, which brought \$26.59 per acre.

The Manufacturers' Association held their annual conference last week at Vancouver. The delegates strongly endorsed a protective tariff resolution, introduced and adopted and arranged to take definite steps better to urge the maintenance of the present tariff. More than usual interest attaches to the re-affirmation of this principle, owing to agitation among farmers in the West for a lower tariff.

An organization called the Canadian Peat Society has been formed lately to advance the peat industry in Canada. A demonstration of peat burning was given by the Dominion department of mines at the Ottawa exhibition. It was shown that peat has a fuel value that at the price charged for it makes the fuel just half as costly as hard coal. Extensive peat bogs exist in Canada, which the Peat Society hope to develop commercially.

It is believed in Eastern political circles that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will launch a reciprocity campaign shortly and definitely commit the Dominion government to the policy of tariff reduction and reciprocity with the United States. The opposition likewise are arranging a policy that demands less protection to Canadian manufacturers and more freedom to buy and sell where they will to Canadian producers. It looks very much as if the present winter will see one of the strongest assaults made that has yet been attempted on the manufacturers' stronghold of protection. Farmers' organizations in the West and East are arranging for a monster delegation to convey the demands of Canadian agriculturists to the nation's legislators during the coming session. Like the local option movement this movement for a lower tariff seems to have spread into Canada from the United States.