

The Agricultural Societies Convention

Good Attendance and Great Interest Marked the Annual Convention Held at the University of Saskatchewan During This Week

THE annual convention of the Agricultural Societies of the Province was held at the University this week, there being a large number of delegates present. Hugh McKellar, Moose Jaw, was elected chairman of the convention. Interesting addresses were given by Dean Rutherford, Professor Reynolds of Manitoba College, F. H. Auld, deputy minister of agriculture, and others. Director S. E. Greenway read his report, which was in part as follows:

Since my report to you a year ago there have been 4 new societies chartered by the Minister of Agriculture, bringing the total for the province to 117. During the year more or less active unchartered societies to the number of 18, not including Grain Growers' Associations, have been associated with my department, have held exhibitions and other competitions for which I have supplied judges. Our facilities have been freely taken advantage of by over 40 Grain Growers' Associations during the year.

The following table will give the comparative growth of activities for which judges have been supplied by this department in the last few years:

	1916	1915	1914	1913
Spring Stallion Shows.....	13	9	12	14
Ploughing.....	61	61		
Good Farming Competitions.....	4	2	1	1
Exhibitions.....	124	113	100	96
Standing Crops Competitions.....	28	23	25	25
Seed Fairs.....	87	52	35	55
Poultry Shows.....	25			

I look for progress in the matter of the spring show. We have an increase of four over the preceding year and there is indicated a thirty per cent betterment in the entries, and fifty per cent in the prize money offered which reaches a total of \$2282. There were 177 entries.

The ploughing matches show an advance over the high figure of the previous year, 868 farmers competing in the contests. The societies raised \$6634 for this purpose this year. The best ploughing match of the year in point of attendance was at Dundurn under the auspices of the Grain Growers' Association. They had an attendance of over 1000 and they had a committee appointed to judge the ploughing as a check on the work of the judge provided by my department.

The Standing Crops Competition is taking on more and more the nature of a good farming competition. 28 societies held 90 competitions which included 10 and 40-acre plots of wheat, plots of oats, barley, flax, corn, alfalfa, brome grass, farm gardens and summer fallow competitions. For this purpose \$5636 was raised and 686 farmers competed. Each society can earn \$250 in grants on this work, by offering \$375 for five different crops. Many of the societies are doing this.

An increased interest is manifested throughout the province in live stock exhibitions, I was asked to send judges of horses to several July 1 celebrations held this year, and 18 organisations held agricultural exhibitions without the assistance of government grants. Doubtless the day is not far away when all the agricultural society work will be carried on without recourse to government grants. You will be interested to learn that there are more than 20 societies which have an entry list in horses alone at their exhibitions of 200, and several have over 300.

The help problem has been responsible for a slight decrease in the number of live stock entries other than sheep. The exhibits of ladies work show steady growth. The directors should make the list more attractive for this work. At present the women and children are encouraged by only very small prizes and a total offering of about one fifth of that provided in the live stock classes. Many of the societies are finding that the appointment of women directors is a valuable aid to their work. There is an indication that horse racing is not so generously endowed as in the past except in a few cases.

There have been held in the province during the year about 100 junior or school fairs. This activity is not linked up with the societies except in a very few cases.

I should like to see all of the societies giving more intelligent support to the work among the boys and girls. One of the societies has intimated that in the belief of its directors this convention should take up the matter of junior fairs. At the present time there is no organisation directly responsible for the work. The department of education is handling much of it as school fair work. The Rural Education Association and some municipal authorities are holding some each year, and the best one of all is held annually by the Tantalion Agricultural Society. At this point they believe that the work properly belongs to the societies. At any rate the work should be co-ordinated. Who should take it up?

It is among the grain growers that the interest in seed fairs has developed most largely. The money raised for seed fair purposes amounts to \$11,745.

The poultry industry in the province is developing so rapidly that several large shows are held each year. At some of the shows which have been in the past regarded as smaller exhibits of poultry there were over 300 entries of high class birds and this year expect over 500. There are many complaints that in this connection the government grants do not do justice.

Thirty-three of the societies held short courses in agriculture during the year with an aggregate attendance including the course at Saskatoon of 11,656. These

courses extended from two days to one week. The best course in point of attendance outside of the one at the College was held at Govan where 152 farmers attended every session for four days. This year I have already planned for forty similar courses, and I expect that this number will be increased to fifty before the winter is over. At the two and three day courses the lectures have been confined largely to practical field and animal husbandry topics. For larger courses horticulture and veterinary science and hygiene have been added. This year I hope to provide lectures in farm accounting at some of the larger courses.

It is not possible to make any definite remarks about finances owing to the fact that only about half of the societies have furnished their annual statements. Likewise there are 17 exhibition returns still to come.

The statements which have been received have been highly satisfactory, however. They show care in compiling and they also show careful financing. Last year the societies raised approximately \$334,000 for all purposes. This year the societies which have reported show receipts of \$213,844. The expenditure shown is \$225,717. In the great majority of cases the liabilities of the societies have been reduced, and apparently in every case the finances are in good condition. There is an increase in the average membership of the societies from 151 to 159.

Colgate asks discussion on the following topics: (1) What is the most successful method of reaching and organising so as to utilize and properly serve a large territory adjacent to but lying beyond the limit of distance from which directors if appointed might be expected to attend meetings? This question arises from personal observation of the fact that we can and do serve the territory from which the directors come, but we fail to reach beyond that and we have a large territory which we ought to serve. (2) What form of entertainment has been found most successful in increasing attendance at fairs thus becoming an asset to the society in increased gate receipts? In order to finance it is necessary to provide a gate far in excess of that obtainable from the number of patrons who are interested in agricultural exhibits. This question is asked by a society that has over \$350 in the bank. Wonder if they would put us wise to a method that enables them to do that? I shall be glad to contribute anything I can to discussion of these subjects.

The Midale society bonused its secretary to increase membership. The result was a colling up of the membership to 325. This secretary makes a practise of distributing circulars sent out from my department to each of the members. I wish there were 117 secretaries who would do likewise.

Winter Care of the Colts

WITH a view to ascertaining the actual cost of raising colts, records have been kept during the past four years of the amounts of feed consumed and of the gains made by the colts.

The brood-mares on the Experimental Station at Scott are grade Clydesdales, one weighing approximately 1350 pounds the other 1550 pounds. The mares are worked until foaling time, and are then rested for two weeks. Later they are used to do light work on the farm. The colts are kept in the barn when the mares are at work. When not at work, the mares and colts run in the pasture and are fed a little grain in addition to the pasturage. The colts are weaned when about five months old.

The daily rations for weanling colts have been about as follows:

Morning: 1 1/4 pounds of oat chop, 1/2 pound of bran, 4 pounds of prairie hay.

Noon: 1 1/4 pounds of oat chop, 1/2 pound of bran, 3 pounds alfalfa hay.

Night: 1/2 sheaf of oats, with oat straw.

On two nights of the week, the oat sheaf is replaced with two pounds of boiled oats. Salt is given in the feed three times per week. The colts are watered three times daily.

Fed as indicated, the cost of feed for one colt for 4 1/2 months during the past winter, amounted to \$14.06.

During the period the colt gained 115 pounds, and at one year old weighed 820 pounds. The colt a year older was fed twice the quantity of oat chop, and in addition 1 pound of alfalfa hay. The oat straw is also increased for the older colts.

Shelter
Colts up to two years of age are sheltered during the winter, and only allowed out for an hour's exercise every day. This has been found to give larger colts than where they are allowed to run out in the open field during the day and stabled at nights. As an illustration of this, one colt was allowed to run out in the day during the first, second and third winters. A full brother, of inferior conformation, was allowed out during the first winter but during the second winter was kept in the barn and given good feed. Where protection is afforded, either by trees, hills, or a high board fence, etc., and the colts would no doubt do equally well outside, but on the open plains, without shelter of any kind, the colts are chilled by the strong winds, if left out for too long a period, and do not make as satisfactory gains. In order to overcome this difficulty, light, roomy, box stalls should be provided in well-ventilated stables, giving the colts an opportunity to take some exercise inside, and this, when supplemented by an hour in the paddock, will keep them healthy and their limbs in good shape.

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