

## FIELD NOTES

### Seed Inspector

The Western end of the Dominion department of agriculture has been strengthened by the appointment of A. Eastham, B. S. A., as seed inspector for the Canadian Seed Growers' Association and botanist in charge of the seed laboratory at Calgary. Mr. Eastham is a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, and has been on the staff in the botanical department of that institution.

### Dates to Keep in Mind

Saskatchewan Provincial Exhibition, at Regina, August 2 to 5.  
Vancouver Exhibition, August 15 to 20.  
Stock Show and Race Meet, Edmonton, August 23 to 26.  
Canadian National Exhibition, at Toronto, August 27 to Sept. 10.  
Dominion Exhibition, at St. John, N. B., Sept. 5 to 15.  
Western Fair, at London, Sept. 9 to 17.  
Central Canada Exhibition, at Ottawa, Sept. 9 to 17.  
Provincial Exhibition, New Westminster, B. C., October 4 to 8.

### Manitoba Crop Report

The Manitoba crop report dated June 8th has just arrived, and gives the following estimate of the acres sown: Wheat, 3,118,092; oats, 1,564,669; barley, 657,520; flax, 41,002; rye, 6,361; peas, 2,247; fodder corn, 7,493; brome grass, 21,548; rye grass, 15,146; alfalfa or clover, 3,220; timothy, 106,236.

Increased area under wheat, 475,981; oats, 190,986; barley, 56,512; flax, 20,367. Total increase in grain crops, 750,770. Total increase in crop area, 818,831. Total area under grain crop, 5,397,384 acres. Total area under all crops, 5,596,061 acres.

The report states that 3,220 acres have been sown to clover or alfalfa.

### Saskatchewan Report

The report of the Saskatchewan department of agriculture for 1909, just ready for distribution, is a voluminous budget of interesting and valuable statistics and information. This is the fifth annual report, and shows that commendable efforts are being made to give agriculturists reasonable support. Every farm home in the province should have a copy. A supply is on hand for free distribution on application to A. F. Mantle, chief of the bureau of statistics at Regina. It includes information regarding live stock, the shipments of animals, owners of purebred and grade stallions, vital statistics, crop yields, harvest help and wages, coal supply, agricultural society work, report on government creameries, dairy and poultry development, and numerous other lines of work in which every good citizen is interested.

### Good Roads' Convention

The Manitoba good roads convention held at the grounds during Winnipeg exhibition was so successful that those present decided it should be made an annual function. Over sixty delegates registered and much that was of practical interest in the line of road-making and maintenance was heard. Reeve Poole, of Archie, was in the chair, and valuable addresses were given by A. McGillivray, good roads commissioner; S. R. Henderson, the association's president; Controller Waugh and Alderman E. E. Cass. More than this, Hon. Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works, was present and promised that the government would give reasonable support to any practical scheme that meant improved roads throughout the province.

In outlining the objects and work of the association, President Henderson invited every municipality in the province to become members. The ten municipalities now forming the association proper had been able to make progress. The split-log drag competition, made possible by donations of \$100 each from THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE and William Harvey, had aroused an interest in keeping roads in repair by means of this simple and inexpensive implement. There was now a contest in four municipalities and thirty drags have gone into the districts surrounding the city as a result of this agitation. Sixteen miles of clay road are being kept in repair by the use of the drag.

Commissioner McGillivray gave a lengthy and practical talk on the construction and maintenance of roads and the building of bridges and culverts. This paper will be given in an issue in the near future.

J. P. McKibbin, of Cartwright, gave the results of experience in road-making in Roblin municipality, and pointed out the necessity of thorough drainage and a good foundation. He also favored

bridges of steel and reinforced concrete in preference to the old wooden structures.

Referring to the association, he said he was glad he had attended, as he now felt assured that the intentions of the organization were good. Many in outlying parts seemed to think that the prime object was to get the government to assist in providing good roads for the use of automobilists. He was glad to know that such was not the case. The evident aim was to provide good roads for the farmers.

The next convention will be held at Brandon about a year hence.

### Suggestions to the Premier

During Sir Wilfrid Laurier's trip through Western Canada he is seeing what this great country really is, and incidentally hearing what farmers of the prairie provinces would like by way of legislation from the Dominion Parliament. At Brandon, representations were made in proper form by the organized grain growers. Such war-horses as R. McKenzie, J. W. Scallion, D. W. McCuaig, R. C. Henders, J. S. Wood and Peter Wright, who for years have been prominent with the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, pointed out to the Canadian premier and others of his party what was considered to be legislation that would benefit the entire West. They demanded changes in the tariff policy, closer trade relations with the United States, the construction of the Hudson Bay Railway, government ownership of terminal elevators and the establishment of an export trade in dressed meat.

The premier promised to take up tariff matters

also was rendered by men from other colleges and institutions. The work entailed is more laborious than one might think by a casual consideration of engines in competition. Elaborate equipments for determining minute details demand close figuring and careful manipulation. There is no guess work. In addition there are hours of brain-tiring mathematical work when the actual tests are completed.

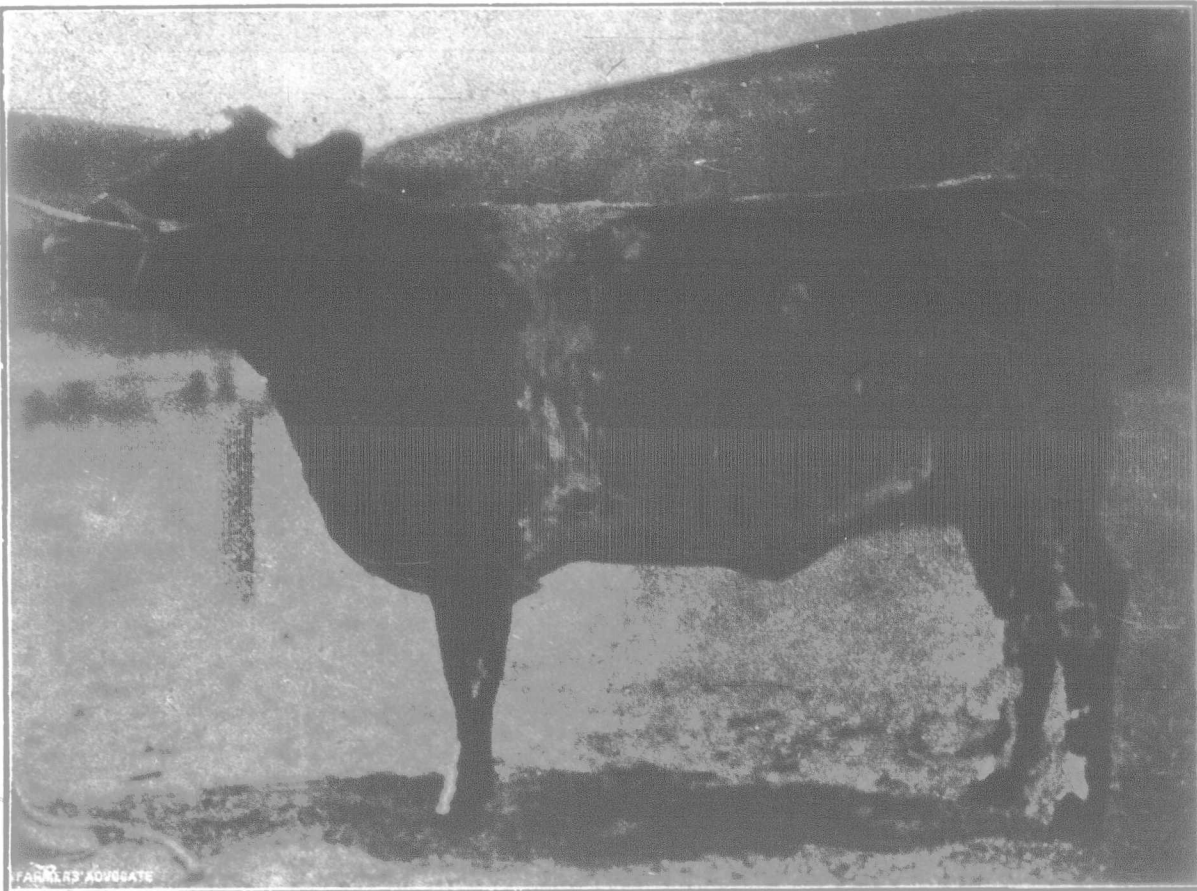
This year the hauling tests were eliminated. After the brake tests referred to in last week's issue were finished, the big outfits were taken to a large area several miles out of the city and given an opportunity of demonstrating their efficiency in breaking prairie. In the steam-engine tests considerable difficulty was experienced in getting water. However, excellent work was done by most of the competitors, and those who were present were convinced that traction power will do satisfactory plowing when operated by competent men.

The brake tests resulted in some engines being shifted from the classes in which they had been entered to other classes. In the gas tractor classes the International Harvester secured two firsts and a second. The Gas Traction Company won out in class C. Once more the J. I. Case Company had the best of it in the steam engine classes.

Following are the awards: Class A (gas tractors), 20 brake horse-power—1, International Harvester Co.; 2, Avery Tractor.

Class B (gas tractors), 21 to 30 brake horse-power—1, International Harvester Co.; 2, Burrill Motor Plow Co.

Class C (gas tractors), over 30 brake horse-power—1, Gas Traction Co. (Minneapolis), score 343.1 out of 400; 2, International Harvester Co., score 329.6; 3,



J. C. BARRON'S BLOSSOM, A WINNER IN THE JUNIOR YEARLING CLASS

with Finance Minister Fielding. The elevator question already had been considered, and it was evident the farmers had a grievance. An honest effort would be made to provide a satisfactory remedy. He was not sufficiently acquainted with the chilled meat proposition to give an answer.

Hon. G. P. Graham dealt with the Hudson Bay Railway proposition. He promised that the line would be rushed with all reasonable haste.

### Motor Contest Completed

Keen competition attended every feature of the big engine contest at the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition. Those in charge of the various engines left nothing undone that would give a small fraction of advantage, and it turned out that fractions counted in the awards as small margins lay between competitors in the total score. The big manufacturers displayed rivalry that indicates great anxiety to hold the favor of the Canadian West. Some attendants concluded that some heat energy would be saved by having the water used standing in tanks rather than fresh from the hydrant. Another interesting feature not on the schedule was the presence of an expert photographer, whose duty seemed to be to get pictures of engines that met with mishaps. These side lines added variety to a most severe test in the hands of experts engineers.

The test was conducted under the direction of Prof. A. R. Greig, of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture, and Prof. L. J. Smith, of Manitoba Agricultural College. The judges were Prof. J. B. Davidson, Prof. F. J. Chase and Wm. Cross, ex-superintendent of motor power for the C. P. R. Valuable assistance

Gas Traction Co. (Winnipeg), score 328; 4, Goold, Shapley & Muir. (This engine developed sufficient horse-power to come from class B.)

Class D (steam engines), 60 brake horse-power and under—J. I. Case Co.

Class E—All developed over 90 brake horse-power.

Class F (steam engines), over 90 brake horse-power—1, J. I. Case Co. on a 32 horse-power engine; 2, Avery Co. on a 20 horse-power engine; 3, Rumely Co., on a 36 horse-power engine.

An oil-pull engine underwent an unofficial test and gave entire satisfaction.

Further particulars regarding the scores in detail in all classes will be secured and published later.

### Good Farms at Emerson

Last week J. J. Ring, S. R. Henderson and Prof. G. A. Sproule made a start at this year's good farming competitions in Manitoba by passing judgment on farms entered under the Emerson Agricultural Society. The winners and scores out of a possible 1,000 points are: Alfred Wilson, 759; McClelland Bros., 756; Wm. Shields, 680; John Forrester, 668; J. A. McClelland, 661; T. W. Knowles, 607.

It is interesting to note that in the competition in 1908, Messrs. Wilson, Knowles and Forrester did not qualify for any of the prize money, while Mr. Shields stood fourth with a score of some 27 points below this year's standing. Great improvement has been made.

Grasshoppers are reported to have put in an appearance in some parts of Southern Manitoba in alarming numbers.