

Western Manitoba's Great Fair.

One gets a favorable impression of the Brandon Exhibition as soon as he comes in sight of the grounds or rather the park, for the corner of the earth set apart for Western Manitoba's Fair is a park in every sense of the word, except perhaps, in age. Nature gave the Brandon people a rolling, naturally drained, clean, piece of land and by the enterprise of the Fair board assisted by the generosity of Mr. Patmore, of nursery fame, drives have been conveniently arranged, artificial lakes created and avenues and plots of trees, shrubs and plants of all hardy varieties have been judiciously set out.

Under pleasant surroundings interest in the fair was easily maintained during the four days upon which the fair, as a fair, was actually in operation. The fifth day may be a success from the standpoint of the board, but the public would be better pleased without it. When farmers' and citizens' days are over the fair is practically ended. Large crowds turned out on these two days and in fact upon Tuesday when the judging began. Brandon Fair is essentially the fair for that large area north, east, south and west that really constitutes rural Manitoba and Eastern Saskatchewan. The Winnipeg Industrial is larger in many ways, but it is doubtful if as large a number of farmers attend and certainly not so large a proportion of the total attendance are farmers. Exhibitors, whose products are marketed upon the farms appear to be realizing this fact, for the display of machinery, agricultural appliances and live stock is each year more large.

The entertainment features of the fair this year were somewhat marred by rain on two evenings, Tuesday and Wednesday, and besides the performers before the stand were unusually tardy in making their preparations. The crowds, however, took it good naturedly as vaudeville is not an over abundant commodity in rural communities. The side show features were as "faky" and more numerous than ever.

With the exception of the Clark Shorthorns, practically all the cattle that showed at Winnipeg were out at Brandon and in addition the herd of Shorthorns owned by W. H. English of Harding, which have been on a successful tour to Alberta, turned up to claim many of the best awards.

The horse display was large in agricultural, general purpose, driving, and special classes, but as compared with the show the week before in Winnipeg, the Clydesdales were not very formidable. Taber, A. & G. Mutch and John A. Turner all returned home after Winnipeg.

The two judge system was adapted with heavy draft, general purpose and agricultural horses, Alex. Mutch, Lumsden, and A. P. Ketchen, Regina, being the adjudicators. All through their work was quite satisfactory, although they reversed several of Mr. Gibson's decisions in the female classes.

Less excitement but no less interest centered about the judging of the aged Clydesdale stallions this year than for a few years previous. There were six out, but there was not much speculation as to how they would be placed. Concord, the Hartney syndicate horse that gave Pleasant Prince so hard a run for his money at Brandon a few years ago, was out again looking as fresh and smooth as ever. He is a right tight horse and only wants a little more length to his bones to make him fit for championship company. He does not stand high, but there is a lot of him, especially through the heart. His shoulders lie well and he has a pleasing outlook. In his timber he shows well and goes out true. Scottish Fancy did the running up. The third choice was Gartahoile, owned by Robt. Forke, Pipestone. He is a big fellow, but there are many places where one could pick holes in him, especially in his quality and length of rib. Galbraith's Sturdy Royal, that stood in fourth place at Winnipeg, was given the same place here.

The three-year-olds were a grand lot, headed by Lord Ardwell from Selkirk, but he was crowded here by Flash Baron, a first prize two-year-old at last fall's International and now owned by Wm. Buckley of Brandon. He is one of the lot imported by "Bob" Graham for last year's exhibitions and carried the honors well in the

East and South. He is not so big as Van Horn's horse, but has more spirit and snap about him, and although he has remarkably good legs and feet he was shod so poorly that he could not give a good account of himself. The Wawanesa horse Woodend Raider, was third.

There were three good two-year-olds shown; namely, Baron of Arcola, who afterwards got championship; Concord McGregor, shown by J. R. Scarr of Hartney; and Ormand belonging to Gus. Wright of Napinka. There was some inclination on the part of one of the judges to put the Canadian colt over Bryce's imported champion, but better judgment prevailed and the pair were left as they were placed at Winnipeg. Ormand was a good colt for third place, being sizeable, of nice quality and a good mover. He is American bred, being by Golden Sovereign and his dam the International champion Omega.

The yearlings were not a very strong lot, being mostly from near Brandon and not fitted for showing purposes.

There were five three-year-old fillies competing, but a new exhibitor, A. Grant of Wawanesa, showing Tootsy, a Baronson filly, the first purchase he has made, was put first over Bryce's Heiress, which appeared to be an immensely popular verdict with the rail talent, who are always numerous and interested at Brandon. Third place went to Maggie Priam, owned by J. McLean of Wellwyn, and fourth to Fashion's Gem, shown by J. Perdue of Souris.

Bryce did not show his winning two-year-old at Brandon, but instead put in Lady Marie, a Baron O'Buchlyvie filly, which, though very flashy in her timber, was rather narrow through the body and had a slight hitch in her action. This gave Gus Wright's Nellie Evergreen a chance to score and she took a well deserved first. Butler's Doreen, a very substantial, serviceable filly, secured the fourth. There was no question about the awards in the yearling section, as Bryce's Lady Montrave Ronald was brought out looking more fit and promising than even before. J. R. Scharr took second with Bonnie Annie. The judges had a serious time of it in picking out the foals and finally selected Hiawatha's Heir, belonging to Bryce. Immediately after the brood mare section was judged and it was here that the judges made the most radical reverses of Mr. Gibson's decisions. The mare which was given fourth place at Winnipeg was taken to the front at Brandon, and the winner of second in Winnipeg was put down to third. The decision, however, was popular, and in fact should have prevailed at Winnipeg.

Bryce's Ella Henderson was placed second and Lady Victoria third. The strongest female class of the whole show was that for mares any age, in which the pick of the Arcola stables, Lady Rotha, Rosadora, Lady Montrave of Ronald and Lady June all competed. Rosadora was shown in very good fit and, the judges being Clydesdale fanciers, could not possibly put her below Lady Rotha, and the decision seemed to meet with the general approbation of the spectators, although Mr. Gibson relegated Rosadora to third place at Winnipeg. Bryce's Ella Henderson had an easy win for mare and progeny and the Arcola stables also won for heavy draft team with Lady Rotha and Lady June. The championship for best heavy draft stallion and the *Free Press* cup were really awarded when Baron of Arcola won the Clydesdaleship.

The special prizes seemed to be without end. But most interest centered in the classes for the get of Cairnhill given by the Brandon Horse syndicate. For two-year-old P. S. Dawley won first; in yearlings John Crawford was fortunate; and in foals A. McPhail secured the red.

There was also considerable interest in the Galbraith special, a \$100 cup for the best colt by any of the horses sold by them to be won two years in succession before becoming the property of an exhibitor. The prize has been awarded four years, each time to a different competitor. J. R. Scharr of Hartney is the lucky man this year with a Concord product.

A prize was given for the best groomed team, which was won by J. Mooney of Wawanesa for the care he bestowed upon a pair of Hackney-bred general purpose horses. A other class

that created considerable competition and interest was that for best four-horse draft team, in which there were three competitors, H. Roddick, Brandon; T. Fenwick, Carroll; and John Stott, Alexander.

The general purpose teams made up a string of seven and for first place the competition was keen. R. McPhail of North Brandon had the winning team, a pair true to the general purpose type and well shown. They are chestnuts from a Clydesdale horse and a French mare. J. T. Mooney of Wawanesa got second on a Hackney-bred pair and H. Cory of Wawanesa third for a pair of Iowa-bred Percherons which were just a little heavy for the class.

The Shires, Percherons and Suffolks were very slim in numbers. There were two mares and foals shown, H. Roddick getting first and W. E. Butter second, but Butter won the championship for best mare any age with Stott's Eskham Queen in reserve.

The three Percheron stallions shown at Winnipeg were out again, but this time Galbraith's Cano was placed first and won the diploma for best stallion of the breed. Vanstone & Rodger's Hercules was second.

In the class for three-year-olds C. E. Ayres' Ydrod won first. He also won the diploma in class of any age bred in Canada. He is a pretty little iron-grey animal with good constitution and clean bone, but is undersized and therefore at a disadvantage in the ring.

The classes for roadsters and harness horses were keenly competed, but there was considerable mixing of types which the judge had to adjust in several sections and even then made awards for harness horses to essentially roadsters. Farmers' single and double turnouts brought out some splendid road horses, but the outstanding winner in the singles was Fred Cheasley's black, that has a good dash of speed and considerable endurance. John Emphy's Hackney-bred mare was second. The double turnouts had two pairs competing. J. H. Robertson of Whitewater was an easy winner with a pair of dark greys.

A few extra choice Hackney stallions were shown. In the aged class Hogate's Thornton Royalty, who has many wins to his credit in Canadian shows, was first, with Galbraith's Confident Squire second. Thos. Jasper of Harding showed stallion and three of his get and won without opposition.

CATTLE.

Nothing very sensational was projected into the cattle classes. Much of the stock exhibited at Winnipeg was shown here. In some sections of Shorthorns and in most sections of the other classes the line-up was identical with that passed on by the judges at the Industrial. In some cases the decisions were reversed, but no dissatisfied note was heard either from exhibitors or onlookers. Profs. Rutherford and Carson's placings in the beef and dairy classes respectively seemed to meet with general approval, and if they did turn down Arthur Gibson's or Leslie Smith's or W. B. Richard's winners occasionally, their decisions only went to prove that in a good many cases one judge's favorite can be moved down to second or third place and lots of good reasons given why the change should be made. Particularly is this true of classes where the competition was as close as it was sometimes in the Shorthorns at Winnipeg and at Brandon.

This was the breed of course that attracted all attention, and the uniform excellence of the exhibit merited for them all that they received. The Clark herd from St. Cloud, which had such a string of winners at Winnipeg, was not exhibited here, but a company just as strong presented itself to take their place. W. H. English & Sons, who swept everything clean at Calgary but failed to reach the Industrial, brought a bunch of their best stuff up from Harding and introduced a new element into the competition. Some local breeders made small exhibits, but the competition always lay between representatives of the herds of Barron, Van Horne, Franks, English and Caswell.

The call for aged bulls brought seven competitors to the ring, almost any one of them good enough to take the head of a herd. Fred Cheas-