

**THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE**

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**Vacant Lands Near Winnipeg.**

The Winnipeg Board of Trade has inaugurated a movement to secure the settlement of vacant lands in the adjacent districts; no definite plan has as yet been devised so far as we are aware, but in a general way it is expected to form a colonization company, not to make money, but to settle the lands now vacant, and in this way benefit the city and province. It is expected that not only speculators, by whom a large portion of these lands are held, but the adjoining municipalities, will place their lands at the disposal of this committee or company.

The municipalities hold considerable quantities of land, which they have bought in at tax sales, and which are lying unproductive on their hands.

If any practicable scheme can be devised whereby a really desirable class of settlers could be placed on good farms, much good would accrue to the municipalities, and to the city of Winnipeg.

**Destruction of the Agriculture and Arts Association Property—Annual Meeting.**

The third great fire (on March 3rd) in Toronto this year destroyed the Agriculture and Arts Association building and contents, corner of Yonge and Queen streets. It was built in 1861 by the late Jas. Fleming, florist, for many years a member of the Association. At that time they were getting a revenue of \$4,000 or \$5,000 a year from the Provincial Fair, and he offered to advance the money if they would lease him the lower floor for a seed store. The site cost some \$30 a foot, and the building over \$15,000. When the Provincial Government first formed an Agricultural Department, accommodation was secured in the building (on which some \$10,000 was spent in improvements). The Agriculture and Arts Association, of which Mr. Hy. Wade is Secretary, had its quarters on the middle floor. A year ago Mr. Jamieson, who occupied the store, offered the Association \$1,000 a year to vacate, but the offer was declined. At the Guelph meeting of the Association, in December last, President Dawson suggested selling the property and putting up a horse show structure, with rooms for offices. There was a mortgage of \$10,000 against the property.

In the burned building, as our readers are aware, were stored not only the records of the Association, but all the documents and registration papers relating to the following herd and stud books:—Short-horn, Polled Angus, Ayrshire and Devon herd books; Swine records (six different breeds); Clydesdale, Shire, Hackney and Draught stud books, and Dorset and Suffolk Sheep registers; as well as a valuable live stock and natural history library, including Bruce's stud book, full sets of both the English and American herd books, bound volumes of agricultural papers, a complete set of the transactions of the Royal Society, a valuable collection of works, secured in England at an expenditure of \$2,000, by the late Professor Buckland; the transactions of the Agriculture and Arts Association, minute books, the Secretary's reports, and a large number of miscellaneous works. All the documents, records, registration papers, etc., were numbered, indexed, and filed, and represented the laborious accumulations by the Association during half a century.

The Devon, Polled Angus, Ayrshire, Hereford, Hackney, and Shire books were in manuscript, and are a total loss, and can only be replaced by correspondence with the breeders and owners of stock, and it will be a work of time even then. Ten volumes of the Shorthorn herd book have been published, and the eleventh had been compiled, and would have been in the hands of the printers in a few weeks. Four hundred copies of each of the first ten volumes are lying unbound at the offices of the printers, but the eleventh was entirely consumed. To replace the latter a vast amount of correspondence will have to be carried on with every breeder in the country. Seven volumes of the Clydesdale stud book have been published, and half the eighth was in the hands of the printers. The other half, comprising pedigrees, descriptions and records of the produce of mares, fed the flames.

In the safe were one minute book belonging to the records, and the deeds and other title papers. An offer of \$61,000 was made for the building, which stood on freehold land, a few years ago. The only insurances were as follows:—On building, \$5,000 in North British, and \$5,000 in Norwich Union; on Shorthorn herd book, \$1,250 in North British, and \$1,250 in Wellington; on Agriculture and Arts library, \$2,500 in North British.

**A REQUEST TO BREEDERS AND OWNERS.**

Breeders and owners of all kinds of stock recorded in the herd books would confer a great favor upon Mr. Wade and the various associations by sending in to him all the certificates registered by them in 1894-5, as the original MSS. has been lost.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING.**

The 50th annual meeting of the Agriculture and Arts Association was held on Thursday and Friday, March 7th and 8th, in the Parliament Buildings. The election of members to the Board was reported as follows:—For No. 5 district, W. J. Westington, Plainsville, Ont.; for No. 6 district, J. C. Snell, Edmonton, Ont.; for No. 7 district, N. Awrey, M. P. P., Hamilton; for No. 8 district, John E. Cohoe, Wellandport, Ont.

The destruction of the Association offices was discussed, and it was decided to pay off the mortgage with the insurance money. The property itself will be sold by public tender. The Hon. Mr. Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, attended the meeting, when the affairs of the Board were thoroughly reviewed. A reduction in the membership was considered, and a proposition will be made to the Minister at an early date, including this and other important matters.

Mr. Dryden said there had been a great deal of discussion over the proposed abolition of the Agriculture and Arts Board, which was an expensive institution, though personally he disliked the idea of dissolving it. He suggested that possibly the Board might be reconstructed, and he would gladly hear suggestions.

Mr. N. Awrey, M. P. P., thought the Board was too cumbersome for the work it was doing, but believed a small Board would be a relief to the Agricultural Department. A Provincial Live Stock Board might be formed of two men appointed by the Government and the presidents of the various live stock associations.

Mr. Wade was authorized to secure temporary offices, paying therefor at the rate of not more than \$20 per month, until further instructions are given by the Board, and to obtain necessary supplies.

It was decided to hold the fat stock show in Guelph next December, an invitation for which was extended by Mr. John I. Hobson.

Mr. Wade's annual report, which was adopted, showed registrations as follows during the year:—Horses, 196; cattle, 281; swine, 3,447. Fees collected, \$2,617.25. Herd book sales, \$684.08.

Mr. D. M. McPherson, M. P. P., presented his scheme for practical demonstrations of successful farming, asking that in the event of a sale of the Association land, part of the funds be used in the nature of a loan to that purpose.

Election of Officers.—President, Mr. Jonathan Sissons; Vice-President, W. C. Edwards, M. P. Committees were struck as follows:—

Executive—Messrs. Awrey, Snell, Rawlings, Edwards, and Legge.

Finance—Messrs. McEwen, Rowland, Dawson, Cohoe, Mallory, and Westington.

Horse Show—Messrs. Snell, Awrey, McEwen, Legge, Rawlings, McKinnon, and Wade.

Fat Stock Show—Messrs. Awrey, Rowland, Snell, McEwen, Dawson, and Wade.

Dairy Show—Messrs. Legge, McKinnon, Edwards, Mallory, Westington, and Awrey.

Herd Book—Messrs. Snell, Dawson, W. Rowland, Cohoe, Westington, and Wade.

**Canadian Annual Horse Show.**

The premium list of the first annual Canadian Horse Show is now in circulation. The show, to be held in the new Armory, Toronto, on April 18th to 20th, promises to be to Canada what the great National Horse Show, held in the Madison Square Gardens, New York, is to the American Republic—the great horse event of the year. The new Armory covers a space 300x190 feet, in which is included a main hall, containing a ring of tanbark, 200x100 feet, in which the splendid equines will be given opportunity to show themselves. Provision is being made for seating 4,000 spectators in galleries, while a promenade will be laid out to accommodate 2,000 more. The show being of a nature to attract the elite, and being held in Easter week, a particularly brilliant affair is expected.

The active forces establishing the show are the Country and Hunt Clubs, Toronto, and the Ontario Agriculture and Arts Association, the latter of which represents the breeding societies of Ontario and the Dominion, while the Hunt Club will uphold and direct the interest of the harness and saddle classes, as well as the fashionable elements of the show. Some \$5,000 is offered in prizes. The G. T. R. and C. P. R. have agreed to return stock unsold free, full tariff being paid going to the show, and reduced passenger rates will also be given. Entries are to close on Wednesday, April 3rd.

There are breeding classes for Thoroughbred, Carriage or Coach, Standard-bred, Hackney, Suffolk Punch, Shire, and Clydesdale Stallions, and Canadian-bred Clydesdales. Individual prizes range from \$50 down, besides medals. The Agriculture and Arts Association control the foregoing.

The harness, saddle, hunting, and special classes are under directions of the Country and Hunt Club, and include many "taking" features, such as high-steppers, tandems, four-in-hands, and jumpers, also prizes for lady and gentleman riders and drivers, and professional coachmen in livery.

Catalogues and full particulars may be obtained from Mr. Hy. Wade, or Stewart Houston, Toronto. There is every prospect that this will be the greatest event of the sort ever held in Canada.

**Canadian Records at the U. S. Boundary.**

As indicated in our reports of the recent annual Canadian Breeders' meetings, in Toronto, reference was made to the failure of last year's efforts to secure a restoration of the recognition of Canadian records by the U. S. authorities. It was decided to ask the Canadian Government to renew their efforts and we understand that the Governor-General, upon a report from the Minister of Agriculture, has already done so, in order that our stock may have the privilege of entering duty free, without being compelled to register in the American books. It has been pointed out that the reply of the U. S. authorities last year did not meet the points raised by the Canadian authorities, but was really an avoidance of them, though it was claimed that substantial justice was done Canadians by the present arrangement. It was set up that the American authorities do not hold any discrimination against Canada, the Dominion being placed in the same position as other countries, in respect to registration in the U. S. Herd and Stud Books. Canadian breeders did not need to be "officially" assured that they might register across the lines.

The application of the Dominion Live Stock Associations was to the effect that the Canadian Herd and Stud Books (the high standard of which were recognised in the United States) should continue to be recognised, and placed in the same position as they were previous to the U. S. Treasury restrictive orders of May, 1892, and March, 1893.

The reply received from the American authorities to the above does not afford any assurance to the effect that Canadian Herd and Stud Books will be recognised in the future as formerly.

The American authorities understand the value of pedigrees recorded in the Dominion records, and as they cannot, on the grounds of inefficiency of evidence that our records are not as good as theirs, deny our stock free access to their country, they have not prepared a good excuse for keeping us out at present, and they therefore avoid replies to Canadian propositions. What effect the present representations from Ottawa will have remains to be seen.