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and Home Journal

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AND

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EDITORIAL

Room for Growth

As a spectacular, educational institution the Manitoba Winter Fair has leaped into the very fore front of such agencies in the West. The assembling of models of fat stock of the different breeds and classes of poultry, approaching practically to perfection of the most typical and perfect of the breeder's skill, in draft horse production, and of grains that are possible of production on nearly every farm is at once an inspiration, education, and demonstration that must result in the raising of ideals, the fixing of ambitions, and the final accomplishment of work, more creditable than could be attained in twice the time, without the influence of such a function as a winter fair.

In granting financial support to such a show, the Dominion government made an expenditure, that every one will endorse. Upon nothing could public money be so well expended as upon institutions of the kind that was recently held in Brandon, and is being held this week in Regina. In a country where so much depends upon the growth and success of agriculture, every possible effort should be made to foster the industry. Our governments might well cast over their expenditures and revenues, and consider the relative positions of our department of agriculture, and department of militia, for instance, and arrange that the discrepancy existing between the expenditures of these two departments, be somewhat removed.

Immense crowds attended the Winter Fair at Brandon, but there were thousands who could not be present. Manitoba has some thirty thousand farmers, every one of whom would be worth more to the nation, a better citizen, and a better provider for his family, if he could attend the Winter Fair. As it is, it is practically the best grain growers and stockmen, who avail themselves of such means of

agricultural grace. Some means must now be devised to secure the attendance of others, and simultaneously the means of accommodating larger crowds, must be inaugurated.

Reports from those who attended this year's show, and the publicity of the press, may be depended upon to secure a much larger attendance next year. The real task will be in providing more space for spectators and exhibitors.

Every Town's Opportunity

Boards of trade in many of our western towns profess to be anxious to advertise the advantages of their particular locations as manufacturing and distributing centers, and the surrounding country for its wonderful fertility. Unofficially, these boards appear to be willing to contribute as much to such an enterprise as Andrew Carnegie bestows upon a town that consumes a given amount of steel, but officially, the actions of our boards are not so liberal. As far as advertising the natural advantages, or the public accomplishments of a district are concerned, boards of trade are quite unanimous, so unanimous, in fact, that the literature used for one would practically do for all by changing the proper names and slightly altering references to maps.

What practically all boards of trade overlook is the development of their town by fostering home industries, with particular emphasis upon agriculture. We have frequently witnessed, during this present winter, boards of trade neglecting or refusing to lend a hand to give publicity to a seed fair or Farmer's Institute meeting, while bemoaning the lack of interest the general public outside appeared to be taking in the enterprises of the town. On the other hand, we have seen boards of trade taking every advantage of farmers' gatherings and shows to bring publicity to the town, and these are the towns that are regarded by outsiders as the most enterprising. In this matter of co-operation between town and country, there is practically no limit. There is no better way to gain a favorable reputation for a town and district than for the board of trade to advertise agricultural events and accomplishments, and to exert every effort to create an interest in advanced and natural methods of farming. In fact, incalculable benefit would accrue to the town if the townsfolk made special efforts to get up meetings for the discussion of farming operations, and fairs for the display of farm produce. No town can be prosperous unless the farmers of the district are intelligent and progressive, and the farming community cannot be prosperous without sharing their prosperity with the town. Every farming district is a Cobalt to the town that takes the trouble to develop it.

Consultation Over Hogs

The attempt on the part of the Brandon winter fair board, to bring the producers of hogs and the packing house interests into closer connection, is a step in the right direction. Undoubtedly, conditions in the hog trade are not as satisfactory as they should be, but the quickest and best way to make improvement is, for the farmers and packers to arrive at a full understanding of each other's attitude toward the industry. Both parties are interested in seeing hog production increase, and to find in the production profitable employment. Farmers must have markets, packers must have hogs, and the public will have meat.

At present farmers are justly dissatisfied with the system of buying and marketing, packers claim not to be getting what is required in the trade, and the consuming public is aware that it is paying prices out of all proportion to the returns of the produce. With such conditions existing, it is no use for mutually related interests to growl belligerently at each other. It is no use for farmers to declare they will not raise hogs until every prospect of remedying conditions has been explored. It is no use for packers to fume in their offices and abattoirs, about the class of stuff they are getting until they have taken the producers into their confidence. One thing both producers and packers will be able to agree upon, and that is, that considering the small profit that each gets on his labor, capital and ability, the public has to pay altogether too much for its meat food. The retailer, of all men, who puts little or nothing into the work of producing meats, reaps the largest profit in handling.

Ontario had a similar experience to that which the West is now entering upon. Her packers were not satisfied with their supplies, and the farmers were far from pleased with the prices. Then the farmers and packers got together at the winter fair, told each other their troubles, and deliberately set about making improvements as each other suggested. We look forward to something of this kind, as a result of the getting together of packers and farmers at our winter fairs.

Clover Growing

Experts assert that there is no reason why red clover should not be successfully grown in any part of the North-west adapted by soil and climate to the growth of wheat, providing—and here is where the difficulty comes in—we can find the proper way to grow it. It is not a plant indigenous to this country. We are attempting to grow it under conditions that differ rather widely from those that are natural to it. Consequently it is to be expected that during the period of adaptation, records of

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