

Grain Act and Freight Rates.

It is seldom that a more striking testimony of the influence of the organized farmer is seen than in the Amendments to the Grain Act, which recently passed the Federal Parliament, and the reduction in grain rates which has come into effect. It is often said that it is impossible to get farmers to stick together or become a unit on any public question affecting their interests. The history of farmers' associations in the past has led the thinking public largely to this conclusion. Not infrequently have organizations sprung up, and having apparently a good purpose soon found a large membership, only to dwindle to nothingness in a short time, without having accomplished any desirable end. Not so, however, with the movement which originated about two years ago among the grain-growers of the Territories, and which was reinforced by a similar institution in Manitoba last winter. The work which has already been done has more than justified the effort put forth, and the promoters of the movement have good reason for congratulation. The amendments to the Manitoba Grain Act, although, perhaps, not satisfactory in every detail, are a long step toward remedying a grievance that undoubtedly would still exist to a large extent had not organized effort been put forth. This is but another testimony that the people can rule if they will. No Government can long afford to resist the entreaties of any body so influential and important as those who furnish the mainstays of the country's wealth.

The agitation in favor of better freight rates has resulted in a regulation that will mean many more dollars of the farmer's money in his own pocket than under the old schedule. And while party politicians continue to debate as to who was directly responsible for the reduction, grain growers will be satisfied to realize in a practical way that a change has taken place, both in the rates and in the grain act, and that had they not arisen in a body to demand their rights, no Government or railway corporation would have provided for regulations even so satisfactory as those which now exist.

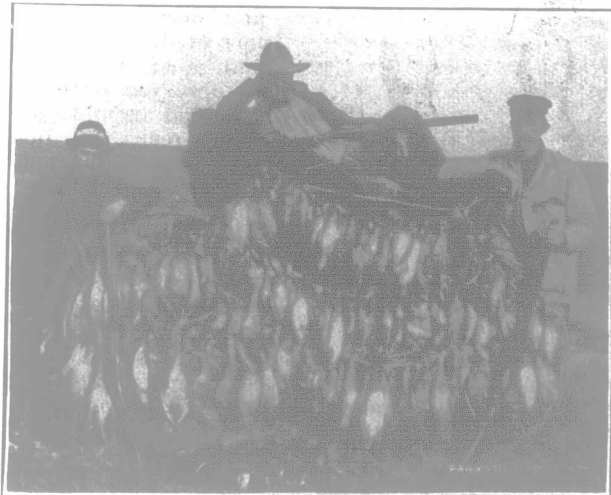
Dominion Exhibition for the West.

The question of holding a Dominion Exhibition has become a pretty live subject in Winnipeg since the departure of the Manufacturers' Association eastward. As outlined in an article in these columns in April last, such an exhibition, if rightly undertaken and properly managed, would prove a great advertisement for this country. Such a worthy undertaking, however, demands the best effort of our wisest exhibition councillors.

The primary object in this undertaking, as, in fact, in all great exhibitions, being that of advertising the country and developing the best industries contained therein, the agricultural and live-stock departments will demand special, and, in fact, the greatest encouragement of any.

According to the addresses of some of Winnipeg's aldermen and members of the Board of Trade, when speaking on this subject, a stranger to the country would fancy that agriculture was a second consideration, and that the basis of our wealth was manufacturing. Let it be said that men of this calibre are not fitted with ideas that will make a Dominion Exhibition a credit to Western Canada. Some of these men have declared that no particular increase could be expected in the live-stock department over that of last year, and that no great expense would be necessary in the way of improvements to the present live-stock buildings. It is rather unfortunate, in view of the importance of this proposition, that persons having such an imperfect knowledge of the immensity of Canada's pure-bred live-stock industry should be the men to play such an important part in the initial stages of this exhibition. Some of the same outfit have expressed themselves as determined in the opinion that the present grounds, with a possible enlargement of a few acres, would afford adequate accommodation for this great national event in 1905. Happily, for the good of the cause, the manager of the present Industrial has a well-developed idea as to what is wanted, and he has one or two lieutenants on the directorate who also have a good idea of the importance of such an event. It demands, however, united effort on the part of Winnipeg's

City Council, her Board of Trade, and every citizen interested in the welfare of a great country. There is too much at stake to have it anything but a success, and small ideas will never make it what it ought to be. If more suitable grounds than the present Exhibition Park cannot be secured it had better not be undertaken, and unless its promoters realize that at least twice the present live-stock accommodation will be required, they had better hesitate until the situation is more fully grasped.



A GOOD BAG.

In the Raymond district, Alberta.

Why Not a Winter Fair?

At the annual meeting of Manitoba Stockbreeders, last February, it was unanimously decided that the time had arrived when a winter exhibition of pure-bred stock would be greatly in the interests of stock-raising in the Province. Accordingly, a committee was appointed to take the necessary steps to hold a show during the coming winter. It now transpires that the finances necessary to carry out such an undertaking are not in sight, and, consequently, nothing for the time being is likely to come of the good resolutions of a few months ago.

Can it be that the live-stock interests of this Province are not receiving the support which the industry at present and prospective demands? Is it true that the stockmen in only a half-hearted manner resolved to hold a winter fair? If so, we trust that those interested will hereafter put a little more enthusiasm into the proposition. It is easy enough to understand why Ontario, with her organized live-stock associations of many years' existence, should hold a winter exhibition of stock, such as we might not aim at for a beginning, but why Manitoba should be obliged to take second place to the Maritime Provinces, where live-stock raising has not approached anything like the same comparative importance, we fail to understand. We trust that

the members of the different associations will come up to the next annual meeting having carefully considered the best interests of the country in this matter, and that at the conclusion of their deliberations the problem may be successfully solved.

Canadian Flour for Japan.

The possibility of developing a trade in bread-stuffs between Western Canada and Japan is gradually becoming more apparent. In August last, the Raymond Milling Company, Raymond, Alta., made a shipment of twenty tons of flour to a company in the land of the Mikado, and upon its arrival a further order for seventy tons was cabled, and forthwith despatched. Following this, the representative of another Japanese firm purchased 250,000 bags of No. 1 hard flour in Winnipeg. By this it would appear that the Eastern market wants flour, and not wheat. A later despatch, however, announces that Japan is buying considerable wheat in India.

It has been generally believed in reference to Canadian trade with Japan, that the market for flour would include only the softer grades, and that only to a limited extent. Why, then, should No. 1 hard flour go to the Pacific Empire? The answer, doubtless, lies in the fact that at present there is a considerable European and American population in her larger cities, in which trading is done direct with foreign countries. These people require bread, and there is no reason why their wants should not be supplied from our storehouses. The natives are also said to be showing a taste for the products of wheat flour, and although these people have a wonderful aptitude for and pursue a policy in favor of producing, if possible, all necessities within their own country, they have nothing to take the place of Canadian wheat fields, and should their appetite for wheat bread continue to improve, there is no reason why a market for a fair quantity of flour, and, probably, wheat, should not be developed by Canadians.

Down at the Illinois State Fair, held a few weeks ago, the climax of indecency appears to have been reached in the side-show performances on exhibition. Now the agricultural press of the South are going after such attractions with a vengeance, and it looks as though immorality was doomed, as far as American State Fairs are concerned.

A new organization, to be known as the Farmers' Exchange Company, was effected a few weeks ago at a meeting of farmers in St. Paul, Minn. The object of this organization is to eliminate, as far as possible, the middleman's profits in marketing grain and other farm produce. It is also proposed that they build and operate elevators and warehouses.



INDIAN DANCERS IN NATIVE COSTUMES, AT PONOKA, ALBERTA.

On the occasion of receiving treaty on July 16th, 1903. Over 700 Indians were present. The whites in the group are the committee of business men who visited them on the Reserve. On the sticks may be seen the bills of money given to the whites as presents from the Indians.