



TWO WELL KNOWN GRAIN GROWERS, DIRECTOR ROGERS, CARBERRY, AND SECRETARY RODERICK MCKENZIE, BRANDON.

However, the Minister of the Interior at short notice, and whatever the motive, decided that the payments should all be made at once, giving about three months for the money to be raised. Such, of course, could only be done by those having abundant capital to draw from. We are loath to believe that this move was made other than unwittingly by Mr. Oliver, but for all it was neither just nor wise. In the first place it tended to throw the coal lands into the hands of big corporations, with the inevitable effect that the price would be enhanced to the consumer, and second, it is a different procedure to that followed in respect to other government lands. The affair has an ugly look, it would seem that some powerful body coveted these lands, and whatever the argument used, persuaded the Minister to set in motion a regulation that would squeeze out the little chaps.

No Occasion for Misrepresentation.

A Brandon journal evidently anxious to cater to inter-urban jealousies has the following paragraphs in close proximity to each other in one issue:

"The Winnipeg fair is proving successful, both from the standpoint of exhibits and the crowds in attendance. On Tuesday, the second day of the fair, 12,000 paid admission to the grounds."

"Visitors returning from the Winnipeg fair are firmly of the opinion that the exhibition is not as good as the Brandon fair. Some very fine exhibits have been made by the merchants, but the showing of horses and cattle is not as large as those made at Brandon last year; in fact, this is apparent in nearly all departments. The free attractions are fair with the exception of the airship, which so far has been a failure. Nearly all the booths on the grounds have been closed owing to the raids made by the police, a matter that does not assist to make the fair a success. The side shows are of a different variety than in former years, some of them being very good."

The latter paragraph is incorrect and therefore unfair, the exhibit of live stock is in all classes larger at Winnipeg than at the Wheat City, and quite naturally so, because far more money is hung up for prizes at the former city, and it is no disgrace for Brandon to be second in the race. The airship was not a failure, its ascents, several being made, were a marvel to the onlookers. Then the reference to the police raids makes the paper appear to be on the side of the crook, the tout, the illicit liquor seller and others of that ilk, a position we do not believe it intended nor wishes to take. It does not help Brandon fair to run down Winnipeg, nor vice versa. There is ample room for both in Manitoba if properly run, both shows can be improved and neither cater to altogether the same lot of people. Cut out such childishness. It is not necessary for one fair to be a failure in order that the other may be a success, success of the one will tend towards success of the other.

At the Swedish National Agricultural Show the cattle that have passed the tuberculin test are separated from those that have failed or that have not been tested. The testing is under State control.

The Relation of Betting to Horse Racing at Fairs.

From time to time this paper has objected to horse racing at fairs despite the fact that many directors and others claim that a successful (!) fair cannot be had without racing and all its concomitant disadvantages. Briefly we may say: "Better that an agricultural fair or show be closed entirely if apparently its success is dependent on racing and the attendant vices incident to that sport." This is a radical view to take of the matter we know, but is the correct one, when the underlying principles governing, or supposed to govern the holding of agricultural exhibitions, in other words exhibitions of agricultural products. Can one by any stretch of figment of imagination term a racehorse, or a horserace, an exhibition of agricultural product, calculated to improve one single staple output of the farm? We throw not, and if further looked into it will be found that no government grants, or statutes relating to agricultural shows, fairs or exhibitions, are given or constructed with a view to making racing a success, or even to afford amusement for the public, but solely and entirely for educational purposes and to encourage the production of articles from the farm of the highest quality. The trouble is that people generally fail to take note of the evolutionary processes which horseracing has undergone. In the beginning, horse races were held to determine the animal having the greatest endurance and speed with a view to its selection for breeding purposes, but no sane person would claim such a high ideal for the horse racing of to-day. In *World's Work* for August a remarkable article is to be found dealing with the question of horse racing from which we have taken the liberty of making a few excerpts as follows:

"Betting is necessary to draw the crowds—at least big crowds. The average race goer cares little for the individual horses; there's no reason he should."

"Betting is a high-powered excitant—a multiplier of interest."

"The undeniable attractiveness of a horse race, plus the added excitement that is given by the bet, plus the hope of getting 'easy money'—it is this sum that draws the crowd. If there were no betting, the last two incentives would be wiped out. The crowd would not attend, or at least the far greater part of it."

"The book-maker pure and simple is not strictly a gambler. He risks nothing. He and the keeper of a gambling house are certain of their profits no matter how the horses run or the cards fall. The book-maker takes the laws of chance into account; but he does not depend upon chance; he depends upon a cold business principle."

"The bookmaker so long as he sticks to his system, cannot lose. He has the percentage with him."

"The public can't beat the game, but the chief loss is far more serious than the monetary one—the loss of character of men."

"There is a grain of truth in the ancient fiction that racing improves the breed of horses; but the

greater truth, the more important truth, is that racing lowers the breed of men."

"Betting on races should be made as difficult as possible; it should be forbidden by law."

"The result of such laws may be the death of racing. But the breed of men is more important than the breed of horses."

Is it essential that agricultural fairs should be money making institutions, we think not. Educational institutions are not expected to pay their way. Why then because of the failure of governments to grasp their duty in the matter, should it be considered the correct thing to graft on an admitted vice, for the sake of making a favorable financial statement? Agricultural exhibitions proper, should be, bearing in mind their educational value, financed from start to finish by the governments, who at present give grants just large enough to discourage the proper educational work and to invite the bringing in of exhibits or performances foreign to agriculture.

Reasonable grants, based strictly on the actual cash paid out for prizes and legitimate work done, to the local societies, which if properly managed will be found to be successful, due to local rivalries; and larger grants, ample enough to render unnecessary horse racing or the selling of betting or other immoral privileges to the one or more big central shows. The question of grants to agricultural shows needs to be divested of a lot of sophistry, which at present envelops the question, to the delight of the less valuable members of the community, the liquor sellers, the racehorse men, the bookmakers, the poolsellers and their hangers-on, satellites and silent partners in the community.

It seems the only reason for the denial of the suffrage to women is the opinion handed down by Adam, namely, that Woman is a side issue!

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How would it be if a few women were made directors of some of the fair boards and attraction committees? Women have been known to do good work on school boards and in other public offices, why not on fair boards?

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The Canadian analyst warns people to beware of preparations labelled "potted" or "deviled" chicken, beef, ham, turkey or tongue. Fortunately the farmer does not need to call on this line of goods, his menu can be made up with the fresh in place of the be-deviled article.

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Judging by the behavior of the modern child in public there is a pressing need for a kindergarten for parents.

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At the Swedish show they judge the Ayrshires by score card with a rating such as this:—Exterior—points, milk and fat—points, breed—points. In the pig classes, disqualifications take place where the judge considers the animal as too fat for a breeding show.



A FAMILIAR SCENE THESE DAYS IN PORTER'S FARM, TYVAN, SASK.