

Carman District.

The Carman district is, at one and the same time, one of the largest, one of the most varied in fertility, and one of the richest agriculturally, in the Province of Manitoba. The population of the thriving town does not far exceed a thousand, being 1,439 at last census, but it has a well-kept appearance, and a restless feeling of growth and enterprise prevades the place, as one sees new erections and palatial buildings in course of erection or nearing completion here and there all over the town. Its inhabitants and store-keepers may be said to be purely caterers to the agricultural wants of the surrounding district, and as that industry will for a considerable time continue to develop, so the little town may be predicted to yet attain dimensions far exceeding its present aspirations.

In transit facilities, the district might be said to be well provided, having two railways and six wheat elevators. Let the reader, however, get into conversation with one of the farmers doing business about the stores or unloading his No. 1 hard at one of the elevators, and he will soon be told that one of the chief grievances of the farmers is the lack of sufficient transport facilities for their wheat crop. True, they have the railways and elevators, but he will tell you that railways without cars are like windmills without gearing—they continue running, but draw no water.

Eastward of Carman is the notorious Boyne marsh on which so much work has been done, and, according to some, so little has been accomplished in the way of drainage. Notwithstanding the adverse criticism to which that enterprise has been subjected, to the man who can keep cool enough to look a reasonable distance into the future it is a matter of certainty that a large portion of land now in the miry grip of the swamp will yet yield itself to the operations of the plow and to the raising of the staff of life.

On either side of the swamp the soil is a heavy clay loam, of exceptional fertility, and occupying a high standard in the wheat-growing land of the Province. Its selling value, which may be taken as the truest gauge of its worth, is at present upwards of thirty dollars an acre. Towards the west, north and south-west the soil is varied. Taking Carman as a base, the land is clay loam around the town, farther away it is composed of sand loam with subsoil of clay, with belts of clay loam soil intersecting at short and outward at longer intervals till it becomes sand loam soil with substratum of clay, and finally, on the north and north-west, culminating in pure sand with drifted sand hills and scraggy bush stretching far over the waste prairie.

One marvels, on reflection, at the rapid growth and wide and thorough development to be seen in this district. Many instances of individual pluck, energy and endurance, with, happily, ultimate success in every case, could be recorded, but as this is in no sense a personal article we will refrain from doing so. About twenty-five years ago is, broadly speaking, the time of the arrival of the first settlers, but only fifteen years ago half the land was not taken up, and now one would look in vain for a homestead within a radius of twenty miles of Carman. Not from all nations of the earth have the settlers come, but they are there from almost all European nations, and all living in peace, social friendliness and good-will.

Farmers are known to be grumblers all the world over, and we around Carman cannot claim for ourselves or our neighbors to be an exception. The crops are never all that they might be, and we are being constantly cheated in our commercial dealings. Such, with many other annoyances, are the causes of our discontent, but beneath it all, when closely examined, we find that such grumblings are only the evaporations by the safety valve which controls our ambitions, for we cannot all become millionaires or Governors-General of Canada.

The social conditions of life prevailing in the days of the earlier settlers must have been barren indeed, but long ago this district has come into the reactionary stage, and now churches and schools are to be found wherever necessary. In most houses there are musical instruments, and the musical tastes of the youth are being zealously cultivated. Visits are made and returned, and the "top buggy" is omnipresent. Kindness and self-sacrifice in cases of sickness and distress is a characteristic of the people, along with broad-mindedness and toleration in matters of religion and nationality.

Many if not all districts of Manitoba justly claim the merit of public and private enterprise, and Carman, with its sound standing of good and true settlers, will always occupy a high place amongst them.

JNO. McBEAN.

Ontario Veterinary College

Christmas examinations were held in the Veterinary College, December 23rd. The usual Board of Examiners, composed of prominent veterinary surgeons, engaged in the active practice of their profession, granted diplomas to the following gentlemen, who have completed their courses of study at the College: William G. Chrisman, Harrisburg, Va.; Peter Crerar, Russell, Man.; Fred J. Delaine, Emerson, Man.; Edward L. Fryer, Jr., Blakely, Georgia; Richard L. Kramlich, Fogelsville, Pa.; E. J. Murphy, Metcalfe, Ont.; H. Wynn Nobles, Hastings, Mich.; Matthew S. Suttle, Peterson, New Jersey; William Thompson, Minnedosa, Man.; John E. Wurm, Ubley, Mich.

Along the Edmonton Branch.

Ponoka is a new town, situated in a good mixed-farming district, and, like nearly all the towns on this line, gives promise of a good future. Leaving Ponoka, one passes through a slightly rolling country until Wetaskiwin is reached. Here a good business town, surrounded by an undulating country well suited to mixed farming, which is the chief industry, is seen. Fifteen miles east of the town A. S. Rosenroll's ranch is located. This ranch contains 3,488 acres, all fenced, and upon which is kept a fine bunch of cattle. The herd bulls at present on this farm are Short-horns, but Mr. Rosenroll intends importing a herd of Brown Swiss, which he believes to be the best general purpose cattle for the West. He also owns the Clydesdale stallion Baldenstein (3253). Wetaskiwin is provided with a good Government creamery, which is well patronized by the farmers of the surrounding country. This district was rather unfortunate last summer, in that a large acreage of grain was hailed out, but the farmers are mostly well-to-do and had their cattle to fall back on.

Leduc is a snug town, and is the seat of operations for two pork-packing concerns, in addition to the usual business establishments of a Western town. Residents of Leduc are looking forward to the construction of a new line of railway through the town from the east. This is where the old Mackenzie survey ends, and as this survey is still registered at Ottawa it is thought that a party of surveyors now working west of town towards the Yellow Head Pass will connect with it at Leduc.

Strathcona, a lively town of 1,550 inhabitants, is the terminus of the C. & E. railway and boasts of a fire brigade, electric light plant and telephone system. It has a sawmill with a capacity of 40,000 ft. per day, one tannery, a brick-yard, a brewery, an oatmeal and cereal mill, one pork-packing establishment, five elevators, four hotels, a sash and door factory, four implement agencies, two pump factories, a machine-shop and foundry, two bakeries, three hardware stores, eight general stores, one gents' furnishing house, two groceries, two drug stores, four liveryies, one wholesale liquor store, three restaurants, one stationery store, four butcher shops, two millinery stores, one merchant tailor, two harness shops, five blacksmith shops, one shoemaker, one newspaper, numerous professional men and land agents, and two first-class public schools with a teaching staff of nine. Here, also, the residents are looking forward to a largely increased railway service in the near future.

Implement Dealers Meet.

The annual meeting of the Winnipeg Wholesale Implement and Carriage Dealers' Association was held in the Board of Trade Building, Saturday, January 10th, when the following officers for 1903 were elected: J. E. Ruby, manager of Frost & Wood Co., President.

H. W. Hutchinson, of the Fairchild Co., First Vice-President.

J. J. Bugee, manager Canadian Moline Plow Co., Second Vice-President.

A. G. Watson, manager Watson Manufacturing Co., Secretary-Treasurer.

Members of the Executive Board—L. H. Hartshorn, of American-Abell Co.; Geo. W. Erb, of Watrous Engine Co.; A. E. Mott, of Cockshutt Plow Co.; Geo. Forsyth, of Massey-Harris Co.; A. C. McRae and J. D. Balfour.

After the election of officers, Mr. Ruby, the new President, took office, and appointed the following standing committees:

Freights.—Messrs. Mott, Erb, and Hutchinson, conveners.

Constitution.—Messrs. Balfour, Heath, and McRae, conveners.

Entertainment.—Messrs. Donaldson, Johnson, and Harstone, conveners.

Legislation.—Messrs. Norris, Potter, and Stevens, conveners.

Exhibition.—Messrs. Hartshorn, Stewart, and Stevens, conveners.

On the following Tuesday evening, the second annual banquet of the Association was held, and proved to be a very pleasant and interesting affair. Toasts to "The King," "Our Country," "The Association," "Implement interest," and "Transportation," were proposed, and to each of which neat speeches were attached. The growth and development of implement manufacturing was reviewed since the first sods of cultivation in Western Canada were turned. The changed conditions of the country and the improvement of the people in every respect was discussed.

It is evident that no body of men are more interested in the development of our country than the implement dealers. They are ever striving to improve their machines, and without good machines farming cannot be carried on most profitably.

Canadian Jersey Cattle Club.

The annual meeting of this Society was held in the parlors of the Walker House, Toronto, December 30th, 1902. The gathering was a representative one, including leading breeders from the far West to Nova Scotia in the east.

R. J. Fleming, Esq., President, in his inaugural address, congratulated the Jersey breeders on the success of the "Dairy Queen" during the past year and the very bright outlook for 1903. The high average obtained at public sales was far in excess of the previous year, and the demand for bulls to use on grade cows was on the increase, due, no doubt, to the requirements of the Health Boards of many towns and cities for a milk testing at least 3.7 per cent. butter-fat; and it has also been demonstrated that there is no breed of cattle so free from tuberculosis as the Channel Island representatives.

The Club passed a resolution commending the Directors of the Industrial Exhibition, Toronto, for their public spirit in erecting a new butter, cheese and dairy building, and cordially approving of the proposed Dominion Exhibition, to be held in Toronto in 1903, and pledged their support and assistance in helping to make the exhibition a success.

Secretary Reid brought up the matter of the so-called dairy test at the Ontario Winter Fair, maintaining that the test is of very little practical value to the dairymen, and that the only true test was the yearly performance of a cow—taking into consideration the value of the food consumed. Mr. D. O. Bull, J. B. Ketchen, and others, agreed with the Secretary. The President, therefore, appointed Messrs. Reid and Ketchen a committee to draw up a resolution embodying the views of the Club, and forward the same to the secretary of the Winter Fair.

Mr. D. O. Bull introduced a resolution to ask the Toronto Fair Board to have herds judged last instead of first, as at present. This provoked considerable discussion. Mr. Bull maintained that judging the herds last certainly made it easier for the judge, but it also prevented him from trying to make the decisions in the individual classes conform to his previous decisions in the herds. On the other hand, it was asserted by other exhibitors that judging the herds first brought out all herds entered and, therefore, made a better display of the breed; it also permitted relieving the cows earlier of their milk. When the herds were judged last it resolved itself into granting the prize to the exhibitor who had the largest number of prize animals in his herd. The resolution, however, was carried.

It was moved by R. Reid, and seconded by Geo. Davies, and unanimously carried, that the Club heartily commends the action of the A. J. C. C. in appointing a committee to take charge of the Jersey interests at the coming dairy test at St. Louis in 1904, pledging them support and assistance, and that a committee, consisting of the president and two vice-presidents, be appointed to confer with the A. J. C. C. and assist in making selections for the test, and, if thought advisable, arrange to send the best specimens of the breed in Canada to St. Louis to compete for prizes in the show-ring.

Prof. H. H. Dean, O. A. C., Guelph, gave an interesting address on the "Dairy Cow." He stated that too much attention had been paid to breeding for "form" and not enough to "perform." The speaker laid great stress on keeping an accurate account of the weight and quality of a cow's milk for not only one year, but for a series of years, in order to find out the true value of a cow as a dairy performer. There is no reliable outward indication of a cow's ability to perform at the pail. No bull should be used in a dairy herd whose dam and grandam were not great yearly performers. An interesting discussion followed, in which almost everyone present took part. Some of the members did not agree with all that the Professor said, but, nevertheless, many valuable points were brought out.

Mr. J. B. Ketchen, manager Dentonia Park Farm, introduced the subject of the "New Score Card." He claimed that as there is such a thing as Jersey form or type there should be a score card indicating the value of each point. The chief points brought out were that "no udder, no cow," and, therefore, the udder should receive the largest number of points. Next in consideration, the body; then the constitution. These should receive at least 80 per cent. of all points, leaving the balance for the minor parts, such as the head, neck, tail, etc. The subject was thoroughly discussed. The new score card of the A. J. C. C. is anxiously looked for.

Officers elected for 1903: President, R. J. Fleming, Toronto; 1st Vice-President, D. O. Bull, Brampton; 2nd Vice-President, J. B. Ketchen, Coleman; Secretary-Treasurer, R. Reid, Berlin. Board of Directors—Geo. Davies, H. C. Clarridge, F. L. Green, H. G. Clark, David Duncan. Representatives on Fair Boards: Toronto—D. Duncan and B. H. Bull. London—J. O'Brien, Frank Turville. Ottawa—P. Clark, A. A. Wright. Winnipeg—John Webster, L. J. C. Bull. Quebec—F. S. Wetherell, R. H. Pope. Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association—Geo. Davies, J. L. Clark.

The following are recommended as judges: Toronto—Valancey E. Fuller, with Col. Geo. V. Green as reserve. London—Geo. Latsch, with H. C. Clarridge as reserve. Ottawa—H. G. Clark. Winnipeg—L. J. O. Bull. Halifax—F. S. Peer.