

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES' CONVENTION AND GRAIN SHOW

Greatest Convention Ever Held in the West--Howden of Qu'Appelle Wins Prize For Best Wheat--Papers and Discussion of the Highest Order--Interesting Short Courses in Stock and Grain Judging--Hoose Jaw and Grenfell Societies to the Fore--Big Prizes For Alfalfa, the Fodder for This Country.

The first day of the Agricultural Societies' convention was an unequalled success, weather and attendance being of the best. The interest was amply sustained, the discussion of each question being both general and hearty. Not the least notable feature of the day was the fact that the programme was kept well within the time limit.

The convention opened in the auditorium of the city hall at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, the Hon. W. R. Motherwell, minister of agriculture occupying the chair. He said that the convention with its 200 or more delegates might be taken as a barometer of the interest and enthusiasm in agricultural society work throughout the province, for the societies had grown from a small circle into what was now admitted to be one of the greatest educational unions. Extension work was part and parcel of the work of an agricultural college, but in Saskatchewan it had been undertaken even before the college had been thought of, and now that the college was a fact, this work would be pushed with even greater vigor than in the past.

The agricultural college lent new dignity to the convention, and marked a new era in the work it had undertaken. In addition to the agricultural societies they had now affiliated with them, representatives of the seed firms which, within the past few years had become so important an auxiliary in agricultural education.

Functions of a Society James Murray, superintendent of the Dominion experimental farm at Brandon, presented the first paper of the convention, the subject being the functions of an agricultural society. This was a very able presentation of the part societies might play in agricultural education. He reviewed briefly the good work done by the societies in Saskatchewan in the past, as well as the work that they should do in the future. He pointed out that the societies had been the medium through which such agricultural educational work as stock judging, school seed fairs, summer fairs, grain field competitions, plowing matches and other lines had been carried on. He urged that with the establishment of the agricultural college the opportunity for useful work on the part of the societies was greater than it had ever been before, and that the best possible medium for spreading the work of the college as widely as possible should be used.

He was pleased to see that the college had a farm large enough to permit of demonstration work as well as experiments. The actual demonstration that a certain crop could be grown was worth 100 lectures of the theory of growing it. Along these lines there was great scope for agricultural societies' work. By what organization should demonstration work with field crops be carried on? It should be carried on by a district organization, he felt, and that the experimental farm were mainly of value to those who saw them. A demonstration at Saskatoon that alfalfa would produce four tons to the acre was of very little value to a farmer at Weyburn or Aroostook. So important was this field work considered in North Dakota that the experiment stations there were operating in different parts of the state. They were demonstrating the value of crop rotation among other things, and meeting with great success. An agricultural society farm was not an unworkable problem. It might comprise only 25 or 40 acres, and might be supported by two or more societies within easy reach of it and with similar climatic and soil problems. Such a demonstration farm might be cropped and would bring the work of the field husbandry department right to the door of every farmer in Saskatchewan.

At the present stage of agriculture in Saskatchewan, no other department of the college was of such importance and it was only right that it should be in as close touch with it as possible. Mr. Murray further advocated the development and extension of plowing matches.

Get College Work First This paper was followed by a very animated discussion, in the course of which the Hon. W. R. Motherwell stated that he thought the point of demonstration farm well taken, but that it would be needful to get the agricultural work of the college well established first. The balance of the discussion was devoted to the question of how the secretary could aid in the development of a strong society from the president's standpoint; how the president and directors could aid in the development of the society from the secretary's standpoint; and finally, how the members may help to develop the society. Many good points were brought out. Committees on resolutions and exhibition dates were appointed.

Afternoon Session When the delegates reassembled after the noon hour, the first address

was on "Our Agricultural Societies in 1909," which was taken up by Hedley Auld, superintendent of this department. Mr. Auld has been in charge of this department since November, but nevertheless showed quite a mastery of the subject. He showed that 529 demonstrations had been undertaken by societies during the year, five station shows had been held and many seed fairs. A suggestion made in connection with the holding of a station show by agricultural societies was that prizes should only be awarded to horses which would later stand for service in that particular district. Some 70 agricultural shows had been held during the year and as far as possible the department had furnished judges for all of them. In looking through the correspondence he found the work of the judges had been generally satisfactory. There were in Saskatchewan 72 societies with a membership of close on 10,000, and these societies there had been distributed \$40,000 in government grants. Excellent work had been done by farmers' meetings, of which 79 had been held under the auspices of agricultural societies. In all 150 meetings had been held and the government had supplied speakers for all of these meetings.

Mr. Auld drew attention to the fact that plowing matches were becoming more popular. A number of questions were asked Mr. Auld as to details in connection with the payment of prize money, etc.

Fairs and Field Competitions Seed Fairs and Field Competitions in 1909 and some proposed changes for 1910, was the subject taken up by F. H. Reed, representative in Saskatchewan, of the Dominion seed grain branch. Mr. Reed reported 49 standing field competitions and 48 seed fairs held during 1909 a gain of 8 competitions and 6 fairs over 1908. Mr. Reed suggested for 1910 that the awards should be employed for many judges should be employed for the fairs. This would enable two judges to devote their time to placing the awards on the grain and the third man could conduct a judging class and also deliver a lecture on seedling production. In connection with field competitions there has been some complaint that under the present rules it was possible for a man with a dirty farm to break up ten acres of new land, sow it with clean seed and thus capture a prize. To overcome this difficulty it was proposed to add to the scores and ten points for general farm methods and the purity of all crops grown on the farm.

Values of Wheat Another complaint which had reached him was if prizes were being given for other than Red Fyfe wheat. There was a question as to the milling value of varieties other than Red Fyfe, and some thought they should not be encouraged. He drew attention to the fact that of the 450 fields of wheat entered in the competitions in 1909 there had been 348 of Red Fyfe, 55 of Preston, 29 of Stanley and six of Huron. This indicated that Red Fyfe, Preston and Stanley were the three leading varieties being grown. The question was asked Mr. Reed if Preston were as good a milling wheat as Red Fyfe. Mr. Reed thought the answer was in doubt. In connection with the dates of seed grain fairs, Mr. Reed suggested that as far as possible they be held between November 15 and December 22, as to five men who have grain to sell. Mr. Reed thought that a man should not be allowed to take prizes at more than one local show but should have the privilege of exhibiting his seed for sale at as many shows as he wished. He stated in conclusion that there was an almost unlimited demand for good seed and the seed fair was an excellent means of advertising good seed.

The discussion following this address was quite brisk. Many favored the idea of all seed fairs being held between November 15 and December 11. Though one or two thought that it might not suit in large grain districts, where all threshing had not been done. The idea of more judges at seed fairs met with very general approval. One notable feature of the discussion was the idea that grain should be taken a prize as a standing crop as in that way it was much easier to judge of its purity.

Changes in the Act The agricultural societies' act of 1910 was dealt with at some length by the Hon. W. R. Motherwell. There are some very radical changes in the act, but Mr. Motherwell, taking it clause by clause, showed that the government had endeavored to receive matters that societies would receive in the first five years after struggling. They had been young and struggling. They had made the limit of distance between societies thirty miles, to give a chance to work up a good membership, and had provided premiums for holding plowing matches, seed fairs, poultry fairs and standing competitions, so that societies might extend their work and increase their income in this way. Very many questions were asked

of the minister, but they did not bring anything very new to light. Improving the Shows Paul Brett, Duncan Anderson and I. M. Smalle dealt with different methods of improving agricultural shows. Duncan Anderson laid great stress on the need of doing away with horse racing at these shows. The list of delegates who have registered and the societies they represent are as follows: H. O. Wilson and Conrad Stueck, Abernethy; Edward Jonsson, Alameda; John McEachern, Arcoia; William Ramsay, Bladworth; C. R. Boulton and Chas. Bishop, Broadview; J. W. Fairchild, Brownlee; G. E. Hacking, Chas. Dr. M. Ralph, Carleton Place; Chas. Craig, Central Sask.; Robert Fraser, Church Bridge; George Rich, Craik; William Black, Creelman; D. S. Hutcheson, Davidson; A. J. McQuitty, H. K. Kalfshein, R. L. Kidd, Fairmead; J. Ormston, Fort Qu'Appelle; Colin Wells, Francis P. Crear, W. A. Paul, Govan; Ed. Fitzgerald, D. M. Dilley, Hanley; A. Ecker, Humboldt; James Cook, Indian Head; T. E. Walker, Langham; L. Dunn, Laidlaw; J. M. Peumam, Alex. Watson, Lipton; Stanley Rackham, Lloydminster; Arthur Anslow, Lumsden; A. Cumberland, Maple Creep; Peter Alkinhead, Melfort; A. J. Bradley, Milestone; H. Dorrel, Moose Jaw; T. J. Neish, Rossmount; K. M. Fell, Moosomin; Thomas Ward, Mortlach; F. W. Adams, North Battleford; E. C. Chappe, Oxbow; A. M. Black, Paynton; James Smith, Prince Albert; A. M. Thompson, Ull Lake; P. M. Brett, Regina; John Winkeweder, J. M. Caswell, Rosthern; Jas. K. Millar, Salscoats; S. McLeod, Sinitault; T. J. Wilson, Wm. Hanley, South Qu'Appelle; William Laing, Stockholm; W. J. McIntosh, Stoughton; D. J. McKillop, Strassburg; A. Bachmann, Swift Current; W. B. Ross, Togo; W. A. Pain, Vonda; L. I. Stewart, Wadena; R. R. Hutchison, Wapella; Chappell, Watson; F. C. Washington, M. Crowe, Windthorst; Thos. Kearns, W. P. Osler, Wolesley; S. J. Egriison, Wynward; Hans Leoken, Estabrook; W. H. Wilkins.

The evening session was rather more of a social character, the addresses being enlivened by several delightful vocal numbers by Miss Greenlaw, and piano solos by Miss Munn. In the unavoidable absence of Premier Scott, the Hon. W. R. Motherwell presided. Mayor Williams tendered the delegates a cordial welcome, stating that by another year he hoped that they would have a special hall for them at the agricultural college, with a street railway to carry them to it. W. A. Munro, superintendent of the experimental farm at Rosthern, replied on behalf of the convention, and in the course of his remarks drew attention to the place achieved by the farmers today in the eye of the world, contrasting the welcome accorded farmers' conventions now to what had been the case only ten years ago.

About Dry Farming Following Mr. Munro the Hon. W. R. Motherwell gave some reminiscences of dry farming. The congress which he had attended at Billings, Mont., in October last, he had found the methods advocated at that convention very similar to those that have been in use in Saskatchewan for the past 25 years. He suggested that inasmuch as the American calls this method "Campbell's system of dry farming" or "summer tillage" in Saskatchewan it should be known as "McKay's system of summer tillage" ever since taking charge of the Dominion government experimental farm at Indian Head had been, in season and out, the constant exponent of this system of cultivation. "It goes without saying," continued Mr. Motherwell, "that there are hundreds of others in our province who have followed the same system possibly not the same definite aim in view, but with the same results. The relation of soil tillage to soil moisture in Saskatchewan is inseparable, so much so that as ye till so shall ye reap."

Mr. Motherwell said further that all countries having less than twenty inches of precipitation were entitled to send delegates to this convention, and there were delegates from South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Mexico, Hungary, Palestine, twenty states of the American union and two great display of products grown under dry farming methods. Among the finest were those of Lethbridge and Taber, Alberta.

Education for Rural Life The address of the evening was delivered by Prof. W. C. Murray, head of the University of Saskatchewan, on "Education for Rural Life." He laid down as a basis for a future if it did not "education was increasing the money producing power of the farmers, and the same time make them both better and happier." It was the intention to make agricultural education paramount for the time being, and he thought this would in the end redound

to the glory of Saskatchewan. At the beginning of the work of an agricultural college, emphasis was placed on the two years course, to be supplemented by two and three weeks courses in threshing and engine operation, live stock judging and similar subjects. As time went on longer courses would be added. Prof. Murray gave a sketch of the different buildings that would immediately be needed. The idea is to put up a number of small buildings which as time goes on can be utilized for specific purposes and the equipment can be enlarged without tearing down or wasting expensive buildings that have outlived their usefulness. Prof. Murray spoke of the men who had been chosen to undertake this work, Prof. Rutherford, Prof. Greig, Prof. Bracken, T. K. Willing and F. Hedley Auld, and said that he did not think a better group could have been made. He mentioned the advisory board which would be appointed partly by the governor-in-council and the governors of the university, as a body who would as it were, stand between the college and the people, advising and inspecting and suggesting so that the great body of the farming community would never be out of touch with the work of the college.

It was the first time that many of the delegates had had the opportunity of listening to Prof. Murray and his reception was extremely cordial. The Prize Winners The work of judging the seed grain exhibits proceeded throughout the day. Only the judging of the wheat exhibits was concluded today. The sweepstakes prizes were divided, the championship of the province going to John Howden, of South Qu'Appelle, and third Fyfe, while the second and third sweepstakes classes went to the North-West district, F. D. Cherry, Prince Albert, winning second on Red Fyfe, and Smith and Rackham, Lloydminster, winning third on Preston.

The prize winners were as follows: Red Fyfe, southern district, 1. John Howden, Qu'Appelle, 96 points; 2. A. M. Mooney, Regina, 95 1/2 points; 3. Fisher Bros., Windthorst, 95 points; 4. F. M. Menhall, Lumsden, 94 1/2 points. Any other variety, northern district—1. Smith and Rackham, Lloydminster, 93 1/2 points; 2. R. A. Gunnis, Togo, 92 1/2; 3. J. Almond, Lloydminster, 90; 4. M. A. Pain, Vonda, 85 1/2. Southern district—1. F. Coles, Wolesley, 93 1/2; Alfred Lawton, Broadview, 92; 3. A. R. Partridge, Lumsden, 91 1/2; 4. R. Parsons, 91 1/2. John Howden, Qu'Appelle, wins \$100, a silver trophy and \$50 in cash; F. D. Cherry, Prince Albert, goes to a cup and the second sweepstakes a prize of \$30 cash, while the third sweepstakes prize of \$20 goes to Smith and Rackham, Lloydminster.

Wednesday John Munro, of Indian Head, presided at the morning session. The first address of the meeting was given by James Murray, superintendent of the experimental farm at Brandon, Man., who criticized the quality of the grain exhibited at the seed fair, and said that he thought the exhibit was an especially fine one, and there was certainly a large number of fine samples shown, but the exhibit on the whole did not come quite up to the first impression. The judging had been more from a seed standpoint than a commercial one, and emphasis had been laid on purity, for which 50 points in judging were allowed. He was glad to say that two-thirds of the samples had received full points for purity. In many one sample of the remaining samples. While the wheat had been adjudged pure from the standpoint of weed seeds, it had been anything but pure in the matter of various mixtures. This had been more noticeable in the Preston, Stanley, Percy and similar wheats than in the samples of red Fyfe. There was little small anywhere in the past year and the exhibit was singularly free from the extraneous matter as to quantity and soundness, half the samples of wheat other than red Fyfe might have graded two or three points higher if more attention had been paid to cleaning. In some of the samples there had been a number of kernels with a black spot on the germ end. It was not definitely known just what had caused this. There had been considerable discussion in educating our people to produce the wheat that is in demand, we must make quality our standard, not variety. The great importance of not adopting a new variety without knowing its true value, as illustrated in our experience with the Laredo. The wheat, was brought over from near a lake of that name. Its outstanding appearance and early ripening qualities made for it many friends when introduced. We have the different boards of trade at Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal booming it as a most valuable wheat for the west. In the year '87 enough of this variety was grown to get a carload collected and shipped to Toronto, where it was milled and baked by two of the best bakers in the city, whose customers were on an accord in condemning the bread from this flour. As a consequence, today this variety is hardly to be found in a pure state in the western provinces. Other instances could be cited of very similar results, even during the last year or two.

As soon as Mr. Mooney took his seat, the discussion as to what variety of wheat to grow was resumed with great vigor. Sergeant Coles, who is a warm advocate of early ripening wheat, called attention to the new hybrid Margness, which was now be-

ing recognized by the Central experimental farm at Ottawa, and James Murray recalled to the platform to tell what he knew about it. Mr. Murray stated that Margness was a cross between Red Fyfe and one of the East Indian wheats, and that so far as it approached more nearly to the Red Fyfe in appearance, milling and baking qualities, than any of the hybrids yet tried in the west. But he advised caution in rushing into the growing of it, stating that that had been one of the difficulties with hybrids in the past. They had been boomed before they had been sufficiently tested, and much of the seed had not been selected carefully enough to insure a fixed type.

One of the best suggestions made during the discussion was that of Mr. Abbott. It was to the effect that the growing of Red Fyfe wheat wherever possible in Saskatchewan was highly desirable. The best way to achieve that end was for agricultural societies to take up the work of urging farmers in their districts to, as far as possible, raise one variety of wheat and to select their seed so as to insure uniformity of quality. Mr. Grey, of Greytown, who has been an ardent advocate of Stanley wheat, declared his conversion to Red Fyfe, because on ground equally cultivated, he had secured 400 bushels of Red Fyfe when the Stanley wheat yielded only 25%. No vote was taken, but judging from the number who spoke the feeling of the convention was in favor of growing Red Fyfe wherever possible and of growing oats in sections where it is not a success in preference to the early ripening hybrid wheat.

Place of the Soil Packer The place of the soil packer in grain growing was taken up by A. Frank Mantle, until recently agricultural editor of the Weekly Free Press and Prairie Farmer, and now chief of the information bureau of the Saskatchewan government. His paper on this new method in western farming was a valuable one. Mr. Mantle pointed out that on the average 2,000 tons of water falls upon every acre of land in Saskatchewan in the course of 12 months and that the successful farmer will depend on a large degree upon his method of dealing with this 12 inches of precipitation. His chief object in farming should be directed to the conservation of that moisture for the crops he may choose to sow. In this work the soil packer has proved an efficient ally and this is its chief service in connection with grain growing. Moisture falling upon the soil may be lost to the purpose of the farmer in three ways. It may be pumped out by weeds, drained away through the sub-soil by percolation, or sucked out by the sun and wind and lost through evaporation. The greatest source of loss in Saskatchewan and it is in the reduction of this loss that the soil packer is of assistance. Three kinds were named: Subsurface packers, surface packers and land rollers. The latter were rapidly falling into disuse, as the two first named kinds were much superior to it in every way. The subsurface packer is best adapted to use immediately after plowing, whether that plowing is breaking, summer fallow or of any other nature, and makes a firm, even surface for the binder to work on. It does good work too when used on fields sown to grass or clover either with or without a nurse crop. The grass seed is small and light and must be sown near the surface, consequently its seedbed is more liable to be dried out, and germination made very uneven. The packer presses the soil particles close around the grass seed, thus moisture is conserved and germination hastened. Mr. Mantle pointed out that the packer will not replace the harrow under any circumstances. The surface packer especially cannot do its best work except upon land that has been harrowed well. Of the two implements, the harrow is much the more valuable, being, indeed, indispensable, but the packer is an important item in the equipment of a grain grower in countries such as Saskatchewan having a limited rainfall. At Lacombe, in central Alberta, it was stated that the yield of oats on fall plowing had increased from 61 to 90 bushels an acre by one application of the surface packer after sowing. At the Brandon experimental farm, in a season of abundant moisture, the same practice had increased the yield of oats from 90 to 112 bushels per acre, and of barley from 55 to 68 bushels per acre. These were but individual straws, but they showed the way the wind was blowing. There is not much actual data available upon the subject of packing, but all there is pointed in one direction, namely, the beneficial results following upon a judicious use of the soil packer.

Time for discussing this paper was very brief, but the general opinion of those who had used them was strong-

ly in favor of the packer. Something that was said gave rise to the impression that Mr. McKay, of the experimental farm at Indian Head, was in favor of packers. Mr. McKay rose to correct this, stating that with spring and fall plowing he thought they would be very valuable, but in the Indian Head district where as a rule, the summer fallowing was done early, the June rains packed the land sufficiently and their use was hardly warranted.

Farmers' and Women's Clubs The last address of the morning was delivered by Hedley Auld and covered the extension work in agriculture to be undertaken in the future. The newest phase of this work and the one of most general interest to the farmers and their wives in the west was the proposed establishment of farmers' and women's clubs, and Mr. Auld pointed out that there were in Saskatchewan nearly 2,000 school houses and these school houses were the unit around which the clubs would be organized. He hoped to see a farmers' club and a women's club in everyone of these school houses within the next two years. The organization would be of the simplest, and the farmers' clubs should meet at least once fortnightly during the winter months. They could take up the discussion of any topics in which they were interested and feel sure that the farmers would very soon have plenty of good speakers. With reference to the women's clubs it might be found that they could meet more easily during the summer months. The women would discuss topics of interest to themselves, and it was not for a mere man to say what those topics might be. He felt that the great value of the women's clubs would be the opportunity which they would give for the development of social life among the women on the farm. But while they were providing for the men and women they had no intention of overlooking the boys and girls who were after all the most valuable asset which the country possessed. He hoped that it would not be long before there would be experimental plots in all the school grounds of the west in which both teachers and pupils would take an interest. The speakers for institutes would visit the schools and address the children on these subjects. In this way a vital interest in farming would be created in the rising generation to the great benefit of the country. The farmers' and women's clubs would be affiliated with the agricultural societies. They had an admirable illustration of how this worked at Moose Jaw, where there were no less than twelve farmers' clubs affiliated with that agricultural society. Mr. Auld also said that one of the matters which the department had under consideration was the establishment of rural libraries. Mr. Auld was accorded a very attentive hearing and his references to farmers' clubs were received with a great deal of applause.

Afternoon Session For the afternoon session an adjournment was made to the Fair grounds, where a demonstration in heavy horse judging was conducted by Dr. Hopkins, Dominion government veterinarian for Saskatchewan. About two hundred delegates made the journey to the grounds, and an enjoyable and profitable afternoon was spent. In his opening remarks as chairman, Alderman Sinton, president of the Winter Fair board, traced the history and development of the Clydesdale breeds, illustrating his remarks with some of his own pure bred stock. After Dr. Hopkins had concluded his demonstration of the good points of a heavy draught horse the meeting was thrown open and a variety of questions were asked of the veterinarian.

Presentation of Prizes The evening session was almost entirely taken up by the delegates from Grenfell society, who gave an exceedingly interesting representation of a model farmers' club meeting. At the commencement of the session, Hon. W. R. Motherwell made formal presentation of the prizes won at the seed grain competition. Some of the results are as follows: Fyfe wheat (northern district, 25 entries)—1st, F. D. Cherry, Prince Albert; 2nd, John A. Pain, Vonda; 3rd, L. S. Smith, Saskatoon; 4th, D. Laing, Dubuc. Fyfe wheat (southern district), 42 entries—1st, John Howden, S. Qu'Appelle; 2nd, John A. Mooney, Regina; 3rd, Fisher Bros., Windthorst; 4th, F. W. Wrenshall, Lumsden. Championship north district—Purity Flour cup and a barrel of Purity Flour, presented by Western Canada Flour Mills, won by F. D. Cherry. Grand championship farm crops trophy—Wof by John Howden. Oats, any variety, northern district, 1st, J. Lanigan, Wadena; 2nd, J. C. Hill & Sons, Lloydminster; 3rd, J. Harvey, Wadena; 4th, A. M. Black, Paynton. Oats, southern district—1st, H. R. Hayward, Fort Qu'Appelle; 2nd, R. H. Carter, Fort Qu'Appelle; 3rd, Jos. Dundas, Francis; 4th, J. B. McGowan, Kronan. Championship—L. Lanigan, Wadena. Garton's Cup—A. M. Black, Yaverton. A barrel of Purity Flour, presented by the Western Canada Flour Mills Co., went with the prize for the best Red Fyfe wheat in the northern district. H. W. Corriell, editor of The Farm Crops, congratulated the winners of the Farm Crops Trophy. Grenfell Society's Programme The Grenfell Society then took up

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Coal on Earth West Coal and Stone SYLVANIA HARD OOD Poplar, Slabs B. C. Fir DELIVERY CHEWAN DAL Stove and Furnace 5 a ton Dewdney St. and Broad, and on Heap's Warehouse Utopia Date Cafe for business, best of foods at style. Regina are some here for satisfaction. of Fruits money always Winter Apples paid for and Fowl; wanted. TOPIA Phone 591. & Keay ina akers on Street ascana Hotel e 219 Connection ND NIGHT AN PACIFIC BRN sions Fare For the Trip Ontario, Port antino, Saskato- ER and NSTER DAN VALLEY AIR POINTS December 16, 17, 23, 25 and 24; 1910; food to months.