

Founded 1866

The fifth annual convention and second grain exhibition of the Manitoba agricultural societies, together with a short course in stock and grain judging and farm machinery, was held last week, at the Agricultural college from the 15th to the 20th.

Some 250 or 300 delegates from the various societies in the province attended and some important questions relating to agricultural society work were discussed. The grain exhibition, so far as numbers of exhibits went, was not up to the mark of last year, but quality was rated higher and considerable improvement was to be noted in the manner in which all of it was prepared for exhibition. During each morning of the convention, demonstration work in live stock judging was given by Prof. Peters of the M. A. C., assisted by prominent stockmen of the province. One afternoon was devoted to demonstrating the running of steam and gasoline engines and other farm machinery.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONVENTION

"The report of the managing director of societies was the first business of importance to come before the convention. Principal Black presented the following report for the year 1908:

"In presenting the annual report of Manitoba Agricultural societies and Farmers' institutes, I am pleased to say that the year 1908 has been one of remarkable progress. Fifty-six societies show a membership of 6172—an increase of 705 over 1907 and 3,997 over 1900. In the amount of money paid as prizes for live stock and agricultural products there is an increase for the year of \$6,208.41. These evidences of development will be gratifying, I am sure, to every one interested in agricultural society work. It is not, however, in regard to these increases that advancement is most to be noted. There has been greater improvement in the local management of agricultural societies in 1908 than in any previous year. One year ago, I took the liberty of drawing your attention to the fact that several societies were open to severe criticism because of inadequate or weak management generally, and, in the direction of their summer shows in particular. This year the number of societies open to criticism is very much smaller. Of 49 shows attended by representatives of the Agricultural College, only five are reported as being particularly weak in management, while 38 are reported as being worthy of special commendation. Of these I would mention Carberry, Virden, Deloraine, Morden and Boissevain.

"It has been a source of special satisfaction to see some agricultural societies, that a few years ago were regarded as being almost lifeless, come to the front. Among the shows that, heretofore, have not been regarded as deserving of first rank, but which have shown marked improvement in management during 1908, I would emphasize Elkhorn, Holland, Stonewall, Russell, Emerson and St. Jean.

"In analysing the work of societies in order to ascertain why some failed, while others working under similar conditions did work that was very creditable, we find that success comes only where the secretary or manager and the directors are alive to their duties. I believe that no man should accept any office in the gift of an agricultural society unless he feels prepared to give his time to the performance of the duties of that office. It is easier to get officers than it is to get enthusiasm in the performance of agricultural society work.

It is noticeable, too, that the societies which, in 1908, held the most successful shows from an agricultural standpoint are prominent among those which do not consider it necessary to have professional horse-racing or other attractions calculated to distract attention from the agricultural exhibits.

"In considering the work of a large number of our best societies, it is evident that the time has come when a great improvement could be made by the appointment of an assistant to the secretary. Since the success of a show depends largely upon the attention given it by the secretary, it is necessary that he have proper assistance, particularly at show time. The expense of an assistant for this work for a few days would not be much. In addition to a competent secretary, nothing is more important than a president who understands his duties and performs them, and directors in charge of the different departments who will hustle. I would suggest, also, the advisability of holding a meeting of directors on the evening previous to the principal day of the show for the purpose of completing the organization and arrangements for the next day. If this were done, many of the weaknesses of management apparent to the official judges would not be seen.

"During the year, 49 societies were supplied with judges in live stock, 30 in dairying and 1 in horticulture, and I believe the service thus rendered was satisfactory. For next year the Agricultural college is prepared to supply judges on similar terms to all agricultural societies ready to have the date of their show so set that circuits can be formed.

"I am glad to know that a large number of societies have availed themselves of the opportunity of receiving grants for grain shows. Since November some 28 grain shows have been already held or will be held before the spring season.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES' CONVENTION

"Last year the first 'Good Farming Competition' to be held in Canada was undertaken in this province, the object being to encourage, as far as possible, the application in practice of the modern theories of agriculture and home making. Eight agricultural societies held competitions under our direction, and we believe, with results that were highly satisfactory. It is hoped that, next year, a larger number of societies will hold these competitions. Their advantages in this province have been so fully established that other provinces are to follow our example. "In developing the work of many agricultural societies the need of larger grants has been apparent, and there is little doubt that an increase in the amount of money placed at the disposal of agricultural societies would result in more good work being done in many cases. In order that this condition may be remedied it is to be hoped that the bill offering amendments to the 'Agricultural Societies' act along lines similar to those proposed last year may be passed at the present session of our legislature.

MAKING FAIRS SUCCESSFUL

"How to Succeed," was the subject discussed by Messrs. M. Collins, Carberry; H. W. Dayton, Virden; J. Bates, Deloraine; and Rev. M. C. Rumball, Morden; the managers of the four most successful fairs held in 1908. The essentials to success emphasized were, an energetic directorate and a hardworking secretary, together with such other aids as adequate prize lists; frequent meetings of the society and of the directors; advertising both in the local press and by circularizing the farmers; elimination of doubtful amusements and professional racing; the appointment of assistants to the secretary on the fair day.

GOOD FARMING COMPETITION

Principal Black stated that the object of holding good farming competitions was that each locality might have a practical demonstration of the most up to date system of agriculture. He discussed the score card by which the awards were placed. An interesting discussion followed Mr. Black's remarks in which Messrs. Larcombe of Birtle; Benson, Neepawa; Prof. Broderick; Andrew Graham and others took part. Mr. Larcombe wanted more emphasis placed on gardening on the score card. Mr. Graham suggested that agricultural societies might spend money to much better advantage in these good farming competitions, spring stock shows, seed grain fairs and plowing matches than in summer exhibitions.

IMPROVING GRAIN SHOWS

Prof. Bedford said that the object of holding seed fairs were: First, to encourage the production of good seed; second, to advertise the seed in the country and bring buyer and seller together. He believed the best means of improving seed fairs were, first and foremost, the election of good directors, and, above all, of an energetic secretary; early preparation for the fair, such as the sending of notices to prominent farmers informing them that a show is to be held, and last by advertising the fact that a fair will be held. He believed in offering suitable, but not necessarily extravagant, prizes, spreading the awards over as large a number of classes as possible. Some fairs have classes for dressed poultry, roots and domestic manufactures. He favored using a score card in judging and leaving it on the exhibit to give the exhibitor an idea of how his grain was scored.

Question—"You said very few farmers know how to clean grain properly; will you give us some pointers as to the proper way of doing it?"

Answer—"Clean it two or three times with the fanning mill. What is wanted is dense, clean grain, not the largest grain nor the soft grain."

Question—"Do large kernels not go out at the back of the mill?"

Answer—"Not always, sometimes it is the large, light ones."

Question—"Will you give description of wild oats? All farmers do not know the different varieties of wild oats."

Answer—"Every oat with a sucker mouth is a wild oat. Some are black and hairy as a dog, some brown, some yellow with beards on them like our grandfathers used to wear, some are white, without hairs, but distinguished from tame oats by the sucker mouth."

Question—"How can we get rid of them? That's what we want to know."

Answer—"The main thing in getting rid of wild oats is to keep below ground and make them rot. Seed the land down to grass for two or three years. Hit the oats every chance you get."

Question—"What is the best treatment for smut?"

Answer—"Bluestone and formaldehyde are of equal value for wheat. Formaldehyde only should be used on oats. We have had best results from using bluestone on barley. No matter how well seed is treated, we cannot get rid of smut if the seed is sown on a field badly infested with smut spores."

Question—"Is two-rowed barley a good variety?"

Answer—"Not in this country. It does not fill up as well as the six-rowed. The six-rowed ripens earlier and is better therefore, for getting rid of wild oats."

Mr. Jas. Murray, who followed Prof. Bedford, strongly advised judging grain both at the seed fair and while it was in the field, or if only one judging were possible, let it be in the field.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES ACT

The following are the proposed amendments to the Agricultural Societies Act:

Grants for aiding Agricultural Societies to be calculated as follows:

A.—One dollar for each member up to 150, provided membership fee be \$1 in cash.

B.—To each Society holding an Exhibition and to any incorporated company or board of management of an Industrial Exhibition Association, an amount to be calculated as follows:

1.—From \$150 to \$350, an amount equal to seventy five per cent of the amount expended for prizes.

2.—For all sums over \$350 and up to \$500, fifty per cent for the additional amount expended as aforesaid.

3.—From \$500 to \$750, twenty-five per cent for the additional amount as aforesaid.

4.—Over \$750, ten per cent for the additional amount expended as aforesaid.

C.—To each such society holding a Seed Grain Show, Good Farming Competition or Plowing Match, an amount equal to two-thirds of the amount actually paid out in cash for prizes, but not exceeding \$50.

D.—The sum of \$50 to be withheld from Societies not holding meetings for the discussion of agricultural subjects.

E.—No society or exhibition association to receive any grant where it is shown that any gambling or shows of immoral or obscene nature have taken place on the grounds during the day of the show.

F.—No society, hereafter, to be organized within 15 miles of one already existing.

Messrs. W. I. Smale, Carberry; H. W. Dayton, Virden; C. Fraser, Brandon; Dr. Thompson, Stephen Benson, Neepawa; Rev. Floyd, Killarney; Rev. Rumball, Morden; A. M. Campbell, Melita; Harvey, Springfield; Turnbull, Manitou; and many others participated in the discussion of these clauses. It was decided, finally, that these amendments should not apply to Industrial or Arts associations but to Agricultural societies only.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. M. C. Rumball, Morden, brought in the report of the resolutions committee, which embodied motions to the effect as follows: That the convention endorse the holding of good farming competitions; that system, improvement and selection be accepted and used as the motto of the societies; that smaller societies be given a larger place in next annual convention programme; that fairs be made more educational; that delegates attend in a body when the amendments to the societies' act are being presented to the legislature to-morrow; that assistance to fair secretaries be given when necessary; that domestic science course be speedily instituted at the college; that appreciation be expressed of the work of Principal Black and the faculty; that more stock be kept at the college; and that Andrew Graham be endorsed for the railway commission.

On motion of Rev. M. C. Rumball these resolutions were unanimously passed and he was named as the leader of the deputation to the House.

To these was added, on motion of F. Simpson, Shoal Lake, a resolution asking that societies which have no buildings shall receive a government grant, proportionate to what the society will give, to enable them to erect suitable accommodation for exhibits.

AWARDS IN GRAIN EXHIBITION

The awards in the grain exhibition were placed by Profs. Bedford and Broderick of the college and James Murray, of the Brandon Experimental Farm. They were as follows:

OATS

Eastern district—1, W. A. Finch, Carman, 88½ points out of a possible 100; 2, R. P. Bradshaw, Roland, 87½ points; 3, James Carr, Meadowlea, 81 points.

Southwestern district—1, James Douglas, Virden, 93½ points; 2, Robert Naismith, Wawanesa, 91½ points; 3, J. G. Barron, Carberry, 91 points.

Northwestern district—1, Carson Glenn, Strathclair, 92½ points; 2, W. R. F. Collis, Shoal Lake, 91½ points; 3, C. P. R. Palmer, Birtle, 85 points.

WHEAT

Eastern district—1, G. M. Verall, Sanford, 94½; 2, Wm. Brown, Headingly, 92; 3, A. and J. Morrison, Homewood, 91.

Northwestern district—1, W. H. English, Harding, 95; 2, Wm. Logan, Minnedosa, 92½; W. A. A. Rowe, Neepawa, 92.

Southwestern district—1, William Reid, Virden, 96½ points; 2, Robert Turnbull, Elkhorn, 91; 3, E. J. Hodgson, Hartney, 90½ points. Any variety other than red fife—1, Wm. Montgomery, Miami, 89 (white fife); 2, John Churchill, Morris, 88 (white fife); 3, W. R. S. Collis, Shoal Lake, 87 (white fife).

BARLEY

Southwestern district—1, John Peterson, Carberry, 96; 2, W. T. Gorgan, Treherne, 93; 3, A. Cooper, Trebank, 87.

in front, protected by cotton projected above to the top of the box, re used empty flour bags

st. e supplied with nest eggs well dusted with Persian red to them at night. down and the hens left on the pen was supplied and water and the covers. An hour afterwards we it of them back in their y did not know where to k. The rebels were al- afternoon we repeated returned to their nests week after another lot ts in the same way, but we tested those of the fertile ones and refilled rtile eggs as far as they e fresh eggs.

long boxes out of doors ch nest. That was our plan, but impracticable plans are not new or ound the best with the

MRS. WM. KINLEY.

The Hens

culty that one experi- der a hen is the trouble their own nests after sculty of keeping other d breaking eggs. The nest that she has chosen o the work and has to be n her own way.

referable to any other, the earth keeping the If the nest is off the to fill the bottom with Before putting the hen with powder to kill all the nest with louse use killer with first class vital importance is in g to hatch with. The uth Rocks and a few nd they may be readily coming out they rarely e case with some of the divisible, if the weather eggs with tepid water process of incubation. to consider is in the ing. Choose only good at a uniformity in size as been widely claimed if helped from a shell f one is watching the coming out, many a by removing the shell

out, the hen should be Another very import- carefully attend to the ter when they come off cold while the hen is y eggs are broken, the y carefully washed with ng in the nest again. ved from the nest till dry and do not re- forty-eight hours after to allow a hen to select other fowls with safety ssured of good results, natural conditions, the ising large hatchets of

MRS. R.

Overcome

ntend with in rearing nd the breaking of the d extra good luck with ing method most satis- hy broods.

7, take her away from ier on a clean nest in a two she will come off to goes back to the nest, gs.

d nest thoroughly with place the eggs under off for food and drink off of her own accord. l while she is feeding, to the nest and again h the hen and nest.

l Rocks, one year old em leaving their nests reat hatch of healthy y were properly dusted y contented.

MRS. E. R. VERNON.