

Manitoba Winter Fair

The Manitoba winter fair and live stock show which was held at Brandon last week, was without doubt the finest event of its kind ever held in the province. There was a greater number of exhibits and of better quality than have been shown at any past winter fair, and the Clyde show has been declared by many of the attending judges from the States the finest ever held on the American continent. The attendance was of the record breaking size.

The stable accommodation in spite of the big addition was taxed to the utmost, and the directors were obliged to decline some of the late entries on account of lack of room. The sheep and swine pens were filled and the increase in the sheep exhibits were very marked. The Ontario horse breeders who were present with studs were loud in their expressions of surprise and pleasure at the comfort and completeness of the building.

The seed grain fair was much larger than it was last year, there being a marked increase in the entries of coarse grains. These were nearly double those of 1909. In addition to the grains and grasses a new interest was added in the shape of prizes for potatoes, and though this was the first season of showing there was a fairly large entry.

There were 160 entries for the stallion show, including those from many of the most prominent breeders in Canada, while the poultry exhibit was nearly, if not quite double that of any previous year. The grand championship prize for the best steer or heifer, pure bred or grade, and the famous McGregor challenge trophy for the same brought very keen competition among cattlemen, and there were some splendid entries.

During the second day of the fair judging was completed in the cattle and sheep classes. Prof. R. J. Kinser, who has charge of the Animal Industry section of the Kansas State Agricultural College, was the judge of cattle, and was very careful and painstaking in his decisions. There was keen excitement when the time came to award the grand championship of the show for the best steer or female, pure bred or grade, any age or breed. There were two competitors only. Spicy's Princess from the Van Horne herd, and the champion grade steer from the McGregor herd. The judge had a hard task before him, for he had to balance the difference between male and female, between different breeds, and between two animals almost perfect in their respective types. After long and careful consideration he gave it to the McGregor steer. All the various classes judged were better filled than last year, and there was a greater number of individual breeders.

Robert Campbell, of Woodville, made a capable judge of the sheep classes. Interviewed after completing his work he said: "I have always been led to understand that sheep were not receiving much attention in the west, and I must say that the exhibit here is very much better than I expected. The average quality is good, and though it might not compare favorably with Guelph or Chicago I think it would make a good showing against Nova Scotia. Everything I have seen goes to indicate that the various breeds of sheep do well here, and I am pleased to find that the general results of sheep raising in the Canadian west compare favorably with those of Ontario.

During the afternoon and evening the orchestra discoursed music and in the evening visitors were entertained by a splendid parade of horses and cattle. On the same evening, March 2, there was a large and representative gathering at the meeting of the Cattle Breeding Association at the assembly hall of the Winter Fair building. At this meeting W. H. English introduced the subject of a public abattoir at Winnipeg, and this produced an animated discussion. It was decided to appoint a committee to interview the government of Manitoba and the Winnipeg city council in regard to the matter. Later in the week committees were appointed from the cattle, sheep and swine breeders to consider and act on the question of the public abattoir at Winnipeg. It was decided to com-

municate with the Manitoba Live Stock Shippers' Association and the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association and ask them to send representatives to a further meeting of these committees to be held in Winnipeg. It was hoped also to arrange a meeting of representatives of all these bodies with the government of Manitoba, and also with the mayor and board of control of Winnipeg. Dr. A. W. Bell, secretary of the Breeders' Association, is acting as secretary of the committee.

On March 8 the horse judging was commenced, and the public came out in large numbers to view the magnificent animals that were entered in the various classes. The annual meeting of the poultry association was held, and it was decided to hold the annual show at Brandon in connection with the winter fair each year.

At a meeting of the sheep and swine breeders held on the morning of March 9, they decided to co-operate with the cattle breeders in their endeavor to improve the stock conditions in the province. According to the different speakers the swine and sheepmen are not as interested in the public abattoir as the cattlemen, but they all thought that united action was necessary, and for this reason they joined forces with the other breeders' associations.

In the horse classes there was a great rivalry between the Clydesdales and the Percherons. The Canadian-bred champion is "Max of Menteith," a handsome black stallion owned by J. R. S. Scharff, of Hartney. The prizes for this championship include a special prize offered by Hon. G. R. Coldwell, the Canadian Thresherman's challenge trophy, and a special prize donated by the Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada. This handsome animal was also an easy winner in the class for stallions foaled in 1907.

In the poultry show there were 1,167 fowls, 260 bantams, 35 turkeys, 38 ducks, 41 geese, 197 pigeons, 9 pheasants and 6 guinea fowl. Banded hogs had the lead, there being 193 birds shown. The largest exhibitor of these birds was Mrs. A. Cooper, of Treeshank, who carried off the Sun challenge cup.

Judging in the swine classes was carried through successfully. Professor R. J. Kinser, of Kansas, making the awards. The professor said the number of hogs was good, the classes were well filled, and there was considerable competition, but he thought the hogs rather light in weight. The hogs that he would have considered the most profitable for the farmer to raise were discarded when it came to the scale test as being overweight.

There was very great interest in the judging of the Red Fife samples. The first award went to Prince Albert, Sask., and the sample was a superb one. Manitoba was second, but the sister province carried off the third and fourth prizes.

The great winter fair closed on Friday, and it is estimated that the attendance was 25,000. The fair proved a success far beyond the expectation of its most sanguine promoters. President McGregor said: "We are satisfied with the improvement, and no matter to what proportions this fair may grow Brandon intends to house it and house it well." Friday morning was devoted to carcass demonstrations by John Gosling, and the placing of awards in the slaughter tests.

Mr. A. H. Blake, M.A., lecturing recently in London before the Photographic Society, said that few people know the reason why our sailors are so often called "Jack Tars." The name dates from the days of gossipping Samuel Pepys, and is an abbreviation of the word "tarpaulin." It came into use to distinguish the real practical seaman, who knew his business, from the "swell" officer, who did not always do so.

"What is your name?" asked the judge of the prisoner. "Casey, yer honor," answered the prisoner. "Your full name?" asked the judge. "Just the same, yer honor," answered the prisoner. "full or sober."

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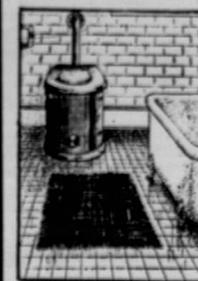
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