

The Winnipeg Industrial.

The first exhibition under the auspices of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition Association, commenced on Monday, September 23, when the grounds were opened for the exhibits. The first day of exhibition week afforded anything but a pleasant outlook. The present season has been remarkable for the number of dark, cloudy days, but Monday of last was the darkest and most dismal day of the year. Later in the day an ice cold rain began to descend, and kept up at intervals for a considerable time. This retarded the work of placing the exhibits, and instead of everything being in order by Tuesday morning, there was a good deal of confusion about the grounds and buildings on Tuesday forenoon. The weather was favorable on Tuesday, and though a little damp early in the morning, the grounds were soon dry enough to pass about with comfort. There were a good many visitors on Tuesday, though some of the buildings were closed to the public, to allow of judging. On Wednesday the buildings and grounds were thronged the most of the day, and the weather continued favorable, though several times, especially in the morning, it looked very threatening. Thursday and Friday were to be the big days for visitors, but Thursday was a wretched day. A cold rain fell nearly all day, with considerable wind and a dark dismal appearance generally. Friday was not much of an improvement, the day being cloudy and bleak, misty rain at intervals. All outside sporting attractions on these days, had to be postponed till Saturday. Notwithstanding the drawbacks there were 5,000 people in the grounds on Thursday, and about 4,000 on Friday. With good weather the attendance would have been probably three times greater.

In spite of the very late harvest this year, the exhibits of agricultural products, as well as in other lines, were large. Every one of the buildings were crowded to their utmost capacity, and a large number of tents had to be brought into requisition for special exhibits, for which there was not room in the main buildings. The number of buildings, tents, booths, stands, etc., spread over the large area enclosed within the exhibition fence, gave the grounds the appearance of quite a little town in itself, while the liberal display of flags and bunting added a brilliant holiday appearance. We will not attempt within the limited space at our disposal, to give a full description of the exhibition, which is really the first great fair held in this part of Canada. The daily papers will undoubtedly supply very full reports. THE COMMERCIAL will be content with a few general remarks, and descriptions of some few of the particular features of the exhibition.

The main building was taken up largely with displays made by commercial men and firms, in various manufactures, mechanical works, works of art, domestic exhibits, school exhibits, etc. A number of the exhibits would show that the country is making progress in manufacturing lines. The central portion of the ground floor in the main building was taken up by an exhibit from the two western Dominion government

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS,

one located at Brandon, Manitoba and the other at Indian Head, Assa. The exhibit was made up jointly by Manager Bedford of the Brandon and Manager McKay of Indian Head. The exhibit we say was the special feature on this floor, and an examination of it was well worth a visit to the show from a distance.

Nothing more effective could be presented to show the wonderful resources of our country in the production of grains, vegetables, grasses, etc. The exhibit from these two farms would alone make up a first class exhibition in agricultural products. A glance at the showing would be sufficient to convince the most pessimistic individual, that this country has wonderful agricultural resources. Fifty varieties of wheat in straw are shown by the experimental farms, and also a large number of threshed samples in bags and bottles. Three patches of red fife wheat grown on the Brandon farm yielded 46, 51 and 53 bushels per acre respectively. Many varieties of barley are shown, and also a great number of varieties of oats, both threshed and in straw, some being wonderfully fine samples. About twenty varieties of peas are in the display. Peas are not extensively grown in this country, but there is no reason why they should not be. Tests with peas at the experimental farms have been very successful. A most interesting part of the exhibit is that of the grasses. No less than 55 varieties of named native grasses are shown. A number of our wild native grasses have been cultivated on the farms, and some have proved remarkably well adapted to cultivation. About 28 samples of cultivated native grasses were shown, also 16 varieties of other grasses cultivated on the farm, but not natives of this region. These tests with grasses we consider one of the most valuable features of the work done by these farms. A splendid collection of potatoes and other products of our rich soil are also shown in the experimental farm exhibit.

SOME OTHER FEATURES.

Among the many other interesting features of the main building was an exhibit made by G. F. Stephens & Co., wholesale paints, oils, etc., Winnipeg. This was tastefully arranged. A large show frame, showing the pure colors manufactured by this firm, was prominent in the exhibit, around which was placed the cans of colors, all of which are manufactured by the firm here. There were also barrels and kegs of pure oxide paints, also made here, together with many cans and pots of the firm's make of coach paints, enamels, stains, etc. Samples of the work done by these articles, on wood, etc., were also shown. The display of the important home manufactures of this firm was of special interest. Other articles which the house handles, such as beautifully stained glass, etc., were shown.

In upholstered furniture of home make, there was quite a display, all by Winnipeg firms. Scott & Leslie exhibited a nice upholstered suite. C. H. Wilson & Co., showed two elegant drawing room suites. M. Hughes showed a nice suite of the same goods, and Pengelly & Ford showed six pieces of fine parlor furniture.

Splendid exhibits of blankets, yarns, etc., made by the Western Woolen Mills, Winnipeg, and the Rapid City Woolen Mills, indicated that Manitoba is making progress in the manufacture of woolens, all from our own native wools.

In leather and leather goods there was a good exhibit of home manufactures. Orr & Christie, wholesale boot and shoe manufacturers, exhibited a number of samples of their work, in boots, shoes, uppers, etc.

A cow-boy outfit, consisting of a cow-boy saddle, leather pants, etc., shown by Carson &

Shore, of Calgary, was greatly admired, and was an elegant piece of work.

E. F. Hutchings, wholesale harness and saddler, etc., Winnipeg, made a grand display of harness, and the opinion was freely expressed that finer goods were never shown in Canada. His double team harness was superb, while his solid silver mounted carriage harness was a gem. A fine Gladstone harness was also shown, besides ladies' and cow-boy saddles, horse boots and other articles of horse wear all of his own make. He carries off a long list of prizes.

W. N. Johnson & Co., wholesale leather, harness, etc., Winnipeg, showed an extensive line of goods of their own make, among which were team harness, gentlemen's driving harness, carriage harness, contractors' harness, etc. Their specialty, however, was a large line of horse-collars, comprising 16 varieties of collars. No prizes were offered for collars, but their goods were highly commended by the judges. A stallion shield shown by this firm, of their own design, was also highly commended.

Morton, Alexander & Morton, tanners and boot and shoe manufacturers, Winnipeg, made a splendid exhibit of their goods. There were dog skin leather, in grain and satin, calf leather in variety, in grain and flesh, harness leather, etc. Their Manitoba calf leather is very fine. A number of furs and skins tanned, with the fur on, were also shown, some splendidly dressed furs being in the exhibit. They have an original process for tanning and dressing furs, which gives a splendid and life-like gloss to the fur. A number of cow hides tanned with the fur on, were also shown. Quite a number of these hides are dressed in this way, for winter overcoats. When a good skin can be procured, a splendid winter coat can be made from it, by their process of tanning and dressing. This firm also show a line of their boots and shoes, manufactured in their factory here, from their own makes of leather.

Bryan & Co., of the Winnipeg Cigar Factory, had a couple of men at work busily making cigars for the edification of spectators, and the process of rolling out cigars from the raw leaf proved quite a feature of interest, judging from the crowd which thronged their quarter.

THE COMMERCIAL GETS THERE.

THE COMMERCIAL job printing department was represented by a case of specimens of printing, which was awarded the first prize. The work shown was simply a collection of samples of jobs turned out for our customers, such as are going out daily from this office.

Among the exhibits in the main building was a large display of indurated fibre ware, from the factory of E. B. Eddy Co., of Hull, consisting of pans, pails, tubs, dishes, basins, etc. This is a class of goods which is having a large sale.

In musical instruments there was a considerable display. Jas. Hudlock & Co., Winnipeg, showed three Heintzman pianos, and a number of sewing machines. The sewing machines were the Standard, the Domestic and the Raymond, all well known machines, which are handled by this firm. To make the exhibit more interesting, the machines were kept in operation by electric motor. A number of beautiful samples of fancy articles, such as panels, etchings flowers, etc., done by these machines were shown, and one not posted would wonder how such fine work could be done in any other way than by the slow hand process.