

day, and this will be accentuated as the years go by. To-day nobody wants a scrub animal unless he gets it at a very low price. In the days to come, we believe, people will not only refuse the scrub at a low price, but refuse to buy him at any price. Our advice, then, to the farmer and cattle raiser, is to be prepared for that day. Begin now to grade up your herds and to improve the quality of your beef animals, and be in a position to take advantage of the premiums that are being paid to-day and which will be greatly increased later on for the really choice and well-finished beef animal.

### A Permanent Exhibition Bureau

Since his appointment as Commissioner of Exhibitions, Mr. Wm. Hutchison has submitted to the Minister of Agriculture a memorandum in favor of establishing permanent rooms or headquarters at Ottawa. Mr. Hutchison's idea is to gather in these rooms collections which shall illustrate the agricul-

tural, horticultural, mineral and forest resources and wealth of the country, and which, whenever Canada participates in an international exhibition, can be easily drawn upon at a minimum of cost and inconvenience. Furthermore he would have on view at the bureau, for the benefit of Canadian manufacturers and producers, samples of the products of the Dominion put up in the manner best suited to the needs of the foreign market. The conditions of a market vary with the country catered to, and the climate is often an important factor to be considered. Mr. Hutchison would have on exhibition the products wanted by our most promising customers put up in the manner which they favor most.

This, according to our view, is a move in the right direction. Canada has suffered in the past by not having something of this nature to draw upon for international exhibitions. Whether located at Ottawa or elsewhere such a bureau would be of value to any one seeking information about the country and its products.

## Our Western Letter

### Dr. Fletcher in the West—The Weed Pests—Brandon Experimental Farm—Crop Prospects—Medicine Hat and Edmonton—Twenty Thousand Men Wanted.

Winnipeg, July 14th, 1902.

We always feel the better for a visit from Dr. Fletcher, the Dominion Government Botanist and Entomologist. Notwithstanding the unending warfare that he is carrying on with those primeval enemies of mankind, the weeds and bugs, the doctor retains the same unflinching geniality that has always distinguished him. Though fighting ceaselessly he grows not a whit more bellicose. The doctor has just returned from Southwestern Alberta, where he has been attending and lecturing before a series of meetings arranged by the Northwest Territorial Government. Dr. Fletcher was accompanied by a representative of the Government, who spoke at all meetings on the ordinances relating to noxious weeds and their destruction. The doctor's address related chiefly to poisonous and other plants known or likely to become injurious to stock and human beings. The lectures were illustrated by freshly-gathered specimens of the plants referred to, and at several places large collections were brought in by ranchers and farmers to be reported upon. A feature of the meetings was the attendance of the pupils and teachers of the schools. The doctor was careful to adapt his remarks to his audiences, making the subject interesting to this new and important element at institute meetings. Both pupils and teachers evinced a keen appreciation of the lectures. The meetings included the following points: Maple Creek, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Sterling, Ratmond, Cardston,

Mountain View, Fishburn, Pincher Creek, McLeod, High River and Okotoks.

Dr. Fletcher expressed himself to your correspondent as extremely gratified with the success of these meetings, which were far better attended than he had expected.

Aside from the principal business that calls the doctor to the West, he reports having had a most enjoyable and profitable trip. Among other interesting points he mentions the experiments of various gentlemen in growing fodder crops, among others the successful growth of Brome grass on the prairie sod after disking. He also speaks of the excellent fields of fall wheat seen at Pincher Creek.

The Brandon Experimental Farm has had a most unfortunate experience during the past spring and summer. The rainfall in the upper valley of the Assiniboine has been so excessively heavy that along its western course it has everywhere overflowed its banks. The valley is in many cases two and three miles wide, and even more, so that many farms have been inundated. Such was the case at Brandon, and the Experimental Farm being partly situated in the valley, it has experienced the same fate as others in like condition. The experimental plots were at one time, we understand, completely under water. A large portion of the orchard also was treated to this unexpected and undesired irrigation. The rainfall at Brandon during the month of June amounted to a trifle over ten inches.

The crop prospects improve with

each day of the present hot, dry weather. The heat is not of that excessively parching kind that shrivels, but of the moderate character that develops and ripens the grain. There has been very little wind, and, since the first of July, no heavy, beating rains. The result of this favorable combination of circumstances is that the grain is standing straight and strong. Wheat is now heading out in all districts of the Province, and a continuation of the present conditions will ensure the natural ripening of another "bumper" crop. We have every reason to expect a continuation of these favorable conditions. The records of years show that the latter half of July and the first half of August are so regularly dry and warm that we are safe in calling them our dry seasons. May they this year sustain their reputation!

The following notes from Medicine Hat portray conditions on the Western ranges: "General conditions in the range country were never better than at the present time. Almost everything which can conduce to successful ranching is in evidence. The wet months of May and June have made the prairie one mass of glorious feed. This following a similar season last year, has produced such a stand of grass as we have never before had. On many sections of the range the cattle came through the winter only in fair condition, and suffered from the cold winds of April. While the winter was an open one it was probably less favorable than had there been more snow and less variable weather. At present cattle are putting on flesh with remarkable rapidity, showing the effects of the abundant feed. The prospects were never better for hay, and in addition to the crop of native grasses many ranchers will have large acreage of Brome. The fear of loss by prairie fires has this year been minimized by the joint action of the Government and the railways imploving fire guards at the proper season of the year. Prices are tip-top, and almost all cattle have been sold for future shipment. The storm losses reported from some sections did not affect the Medicine Hat district. A good calf crop is also reported. The horse business never was better. The shipment of horses from Medicine Hat this year to date are more than double the total shipments of 1901. Good prospects and plenty of work in Manitoba and Eastern Assiniboia have made a good horse market."

From Edmonton comes the following: "Since the 19th of June, the weather has been ideal for growth. The days have been bright and warm, but not too hot. Grain is looking magnificent, but is no farther ahead than at this time last year. Present conditions promise an early harvest. Creeks and rivers are still high from the heavy rains. Roads are, however, improving and as a result, large quantities of oats are coming in; present market price is 30 cents. New hay is now on the market."