

BRANDON WINTER FAIR

A meeting composed of representatives of the Brandon city council, Brandon Winter Fair board and the different live stock associations of Manitoba was held in Brandon last week, to discuss the advisability of holding a winter stock and station show in that city this winter.

After visiting several of the buildings proposed for the holding of the show, the committee met and plans were adopted for the furtherance of this object. The dates being set for February 19th to 21st.

There will be classes for stallions of all breeds, and it is expected that the different specialty breed societies will offer prizes for animals registered in their respective books.

In addition there will be classes provided for pens of (2) bacon hogs both grades and pure breeds, and after these have been judged alive, they will be slaughtered and the carcasses judged.

The sheep and swine breeding association have donated enough money to offer prizes for two fat wethers or lambs one year and under two, and some under one year, and after having been judged alive to be killed and the carcasses judged.

Arrangements have been made to have all the carcasses auctioned off on the last day of the show, and the amount remitted to the owners.

Recognizing the great value good seed is to the province there will be offered the same classes and money as last year.

The provincial seed fair will be held under the joint auspices of the local committee and the seed branch of the Dominion department of agriculture.

The Manitoba Poultry Association has also decided to hold their show at the same time, which should prove a most interesting exhibition, and one that will prove most attractive.

No doubt the most interesting department of the fair will be the live stock judging, in which the contestants will judge beef cattle, hogs and draft horses, giving their reasons for their awards. In addition to cash prizes there will be gold, silver and bronze medals.

There will be the usual lectures, but at this early date we are unable to name those of those who will participate.

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PAVEMENTS OF THE FUTURE

The existing methods of paving— asphalt, wood blocks, tar, concrete and the like—all fall short of perfection. The great fault in each case is that the material is not sufficiently hard to withstand the wear and tear to which it is subjected for a lengthy period without requiring renewal. Then too ideal pavements should be smooth, noiseless, impervious to water, and yet possess a surface upon which horses will not slip or wheels skid.

Many people are of the opinion that the pavement of the future will be of some kind of glass. As the matter stands glass is far too brittle for this purpose, but men of science recognize the possibility of malleable glass—glass so tough and hard, that is to say, that it would be no more easily shattered than wrought iron, and yet retain the distinctive characteristics which at present govern its use.

From the past stories have come down to us, of malleable glass and it is related, for instance, that a man once took the Emperor of Tigris a glass goblet, which being dashed to the floor was only bent, and was easily straightened again with a hammer. Whether such tales are founded on fact it is impossible to say. At the same time there is no room for doubt that malleable glass is not only a scientific possibility, but that one of these days it will become an accomplished fact.

When that day arrives it will revolutionize the manufacturing world.

But as much as we want malleable glass, we want still more an artificial substitute for rubber. Never was rubber more in demand than it is at the present day. By neglecting to replant the rubber forests in the past mankind has brought itself to the verge of a rubber famine. Trees are now being planted by the thousands in Ceylon, Brazil and elsewhere, but it will be a good many years before these come to maturity.

Meanwhile the demand for rubber has increased, and there is no indication that it will do other than increase from year to year. A single Atlantic cable, for instance, uses up fully 500 tons of rubber for insulation purposes, while motor and bicycle tires call for a huge annual of the only material suitable for its manufacture, which has so far been discovered. How rich a reward is waiting for the inventor of a successful rubber substitute!

In conclusion we may glance at one more problem which has puzzled inventors for generations—to wit, how to harness the lightning. Everybody knows that the atmosphere is charged with a vast and almost limitless supply of electricity. If this could be turned to practical use without the employment of chemicals and costly machinery, how great would be the advantage that mankind would instantly enjoy. Every

PECULIARITIES OF FAMOUS FOLK

Keats, liked red parrot on his coat. Dickens was fond of wearing jewelry. Baudet wore his eyeglasses when asleep. Joaquin Miller nailed all his chairs to the wall. Edgar Allan Poe slept with his cat and was inordinately proud of his feet. Thackeray used to lift his hat whenever he passed the house in which he wrote "Vanity Fair."

WHITE AND NATIVE LABOR IN PHILIPPINES

With regard to the relative efficiency of white and native labor in the skilled trades in the islands experience has shown that a Filipino does about one-half as much work in a day as a white man in that country and about one-third as much as the white man does in his own country, with the advantage on the side of the white man that he thinks further ahead of his job than a native and is not so wasteful of materials. The only marked defect applying to all classes of labor is the indolence. The Filipino is not steady and may not be depended upon as a regular laborer until he makes up his mind to forego sickness less frequently and until he manages to reduce materially the hypothetical death rate recorded among his relatives. Instances have been known where single workmen have lost dozens of imaginary aunts and uncles and several such fathers and mothers in the course of a single year.

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