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Table of Contents

The Montreal Exhibition of 1896... 63
Flowers... 63
Vegetables... 63
Cattle... 63
Horses... 61
General Notes by Geo. Moore... 64
Prize list... 64

THE DAIRY.

Weston Parry on butter making... 65
Rev. M. Abbé Choquette on the cheese competition... 66
Report of the last Prov. Comp. of dairy-products... 66

THE HORSE:

Gilbert on Veterinarians... 67
Life of a London Bus-horse... 68
The Hackney... 68

NOTES BY TELE WAY:

Nitrogen for mangels... 68
Manurial expts. for root... 69
Albuminoid ratio... 69
Dairy-Sherthorns... 69
Lucerne... 69
Barley... 69
Fruit-pirates... 69
Nitragin... 69
Slage... 70
Gloster cheese... 70
Late crops... 70
Yorkshire pigs... 70
Farm-work for October... 70

SCIENCE:

Prof. Shutt on humus (continued)... 71
Fallacious food-values... 71
The Rothamsted Expts. (continued)... 72

THE FARM:

Practical farming, Dickson on... 73
State of the crops, Macfarlane on... 73
Divisions, Bouthillier on... 74
Cultivation of mangels, Trenholm on... 75
Cultivation of carrots, Stalker on... 75

CORRESPONDANCE:

Grasses... 75
Crops in Médis... 75

THE GRAZIER AND BREEDER:

Devon cattle at home... 75
Rearing stock on a dairy-farm... 76
Reeding calves... 76

MANURES:

Basic slag... 77

THE HOUSEHOLD:

Outside show... 78
Chat for the women... 78
For mothers... 78
Babies... 78
Recipes... 78
Hints for the toilet... 78
Cultivation of mangels... 78
Milking qualities of brood sows... 79
The law of the individuality... 79
The Farmers' Syndicate... 79
London Markets... 79

MONTREAL EXHIBITION.

Flowers—Fruit—Vegetables—Cattle
—Canadians, &c.—Horses—Swine
—Outside-shows.

The indomitable enterprise of the executive of the Montreal Exposition Co., was put to a severe test by the fire which destroyed the main buildings and seemed to render the holding of the fair an impossibility this season. But they were fully equal to the occasion and in a marvellously short time erected an industrial palace, if not so large, in many respects superior to the old one.

The Exhibition was formally opened by his honor Lieutenant Governor Chabreau who warmly congratulated the managers on their ability to overcome the difficulty which surrounded them. Speeches were also made by other gentlemen, and notably by the Hon. E. J. Flynn the Premier, in the course of which he said that the policy of the Provincial Government was to develop the resources of the Country especially as regards its productions of the farm, the forest, and the mine, and he found valuable assistants in these industrial reunions.

After the speeches, the prizes awarded for Agricultural merit were distributed by His honor the Lieutenant Governor which was quite interesting and it must have been a proud moment for the gentlemen receiving them. The intrinsic value of the prize is nothing in comparison to the glory of obtaining it by perseverance and well directed effort, beside which, it will be a joy to the families and posterity of the recipients in days to come, showing that their ancestors had achieved a peaceful victory as honorable as if they had done so on the field of battle.

But to describe some of the most important pictures of the fair.

The Arts and Manufactures Department is necessarily somewhat curtailed for the want of space, but contains many articles for use in, or the tasteful decoration of the home well worth inspection, which, it seems to me, are displayed with greater neatness and attention to detail than formerly.

The Horticultural Exhibition is pronounced by many to be the best ever held in Montreal, and we may very safely therefore add, in Canada, and reflects the highest credit on all concerned. The decorations of the hall are light and elegant, although formed of the stems of one of our commonest garden-plants, asparagus, with some flowers interspersed.

The groups of beautiful exotic exhibited by MM. F. Roy, J. Beatrix and H. Mayer were never excelled and were objects to "be looked at once and dreamed of for ever." Here there were exquisite orchids from Mr. Wilshire gardener to R. B. Angus Esq.,

PERNS—the like of which it was conceded by all never were before exhibited. Crotons, Flowering Begonias, also quite unique in their class of plants, Caladiums, Anthemims etc., from Mr. Roy who again stands at the head of the class of prize winners, and has been very active in doing all he could to contribute to the success of the Exhibition. The other professional gardeners: Messrs. Beatrix, Wilshire, Bull, Trussell, Mayer, Pannetiau, Smith, etc., have shown more conclusively than ever that they are men of skill and enthusiasm.

The good that these men do, when aided liberally by their patrons and

employers, in improving the moral tone of the community is incalculable, they are, without perhaps realising the fact philanthropists of no mean order.

The cut flowers are in abundance this year and very fine. A large group arranged in a circular shape, very tastefully, obtained the first premiums for Mr. F. Roy, Mr. Trussell and Mr. Reid came second and third with their elegant collection, not much inferior, and there were three others all deserving a prize.

There was a great display of the beautiful Gladioli; Mr. Reid's collection especially.

Vases of flowers, baskets, bouquets were more numerous than on any former occasion.

It was unfortunate that, notwithstanding there had been a large extent added, there was still insufficient space and some very fine Geraniums, Cannas and Hydrangeas had to be placed outside the hall. However they were there, and did great credit to the growers. Messrs. Trussell, Roy, and Mayer.

FRUIT

Hothouse grapes were well represented, the principal prizes being secured by Mr. Wilshire with some very fine bunches. Outdoor grapes too came in for their share of attention. "Apples." The season has been good for this crop and the result is the finest display as to quantity and quality. I could not help thinking that such an Exhibit in London would astonish even the Britishers, and would popularise our fruit by its very appearance as to colours, alone, a quality lacking in English apples, and make exportation profitable, especially when we get the cold storage applied to the shipment of fruit as well as to dairy products, and adopt a system of selection, packing, and careful handling, which will place it in the markets of the old world in as good condition as we see it here to day.

VEGETABLES

In the Market Gardeners and Amateur departments are of superior quality such onions and potatoes are seldom seen, in fact all show that the season has been propitious and cultivation excellent. Two fine collections of vegetables were exhibited; one from Mr. Ceguay of St. Foye road Quebec contained many novelties which will prove great improvements on old varieties. Mr. Caguay's exhibit did credit to the young and enterprising Quebec gardeners.

Mr. Hall of Outremont also contributed a great many well grown specimens of various vegetables, securing many of the first prizes.

In the Agricultural roots I was glad to notice that for Turnips, Mangolds, carrots etc., the prizes were given to wonderfully fine clean roots grown by neighbouring farmers and did not go out of the Province. Showing that more attention was being turned to the more extensive and careful culture of these most important crops.

Grain showed how extra good crops had been and was of unusual excellence, the sheaves of oats and barley which received the first awards were remarkable as to straw and corn. It is a significant fact in favour of the "Banner" oat that it took all the first prizes and proved itself the best variety in most respects.

Potatoes showed how good the season had been for them and were very fine in quality, and numerous. The end of the Hall where the roots were on show

was gazed with two very nice and interesting displays of garden and field products; one from the Longue-Pointe and the other from the Verdun Lunatic Asylum which have been grown by the inmates were very interesting to visitors. Perhaps the most important part of the show of flowers was the children's for I can conceive of no means that could have been adopted to render the exhibition more useful than making it an educational institution, by offering prizes to the children, and nobly they responded this year. No fewer than 700 entries having been made of the Antirrhinums given them to cultivate last spring and many of them showed that they had been carefully attended to. This effort of the Society to implant the love of Gardening in the youthful mind should commend it to all lovers of the human race whose condition it is every good man's desire to ameliorate.

CATTLE

The entries for cattle were not so full this season as last owing no doubt to the fact that many intending exhibitors changed their plans in consequence of the fire which they thought would preclude the possibility of holding an Exhibition this year.

As usual the Ayrshire class was the most largely represented and Mr. Dr. McLachlan of Petite Côte won first prize for his 3 years old Bull, a fine animal in all points. He also took the sweepstakes for the best Bull of any age and was placed first with his herd of one bull and four females. Mr. D. Drummond of Petite Côte also figures largely among the winners of prizes in this class. Being first for Bull calf 1 year;

- 4 years old cow, 1st.
Heifer 2 years old.
Heifer calf under 1 year.
Exhibition's herd 2nd
Breeders' herd.—1 Bull four heifers 1st.

Cow of any age: 1st, besides several other prizes of less value in the class.

The other prizes were pretty equally distributed between MM. James Drummond of Petite Côte, James Johnston, Como, Dawes & Co Lachine—Beaulieu, Williamstown Ont.; Robertson, Como, Wylie, Howick, P. Q., Fraser, St. Laurent, P. Q., Wyatt Bros, St. Louis de Gonzague, Peter Caner, Ormstown, P. Q., I. G. Main, Howick. As usual the Ayrshires have been the most largely represented of any other breed and the Jerseys as a Dairyman's breed seem to have lost ground on account of their diminutive size. The Guernsey which are well represented seem to be rising in favour as Dairy cows. There is no doubt but that their cream is rich and the butter made from it of superior quality, especially as to colour, while their size recommends them to the minds of many. The chief Exhibitors in this class are the Hon Sydney Fisher; Isaleigh Grange farm, W. Butler & Son Ont. Isaleigh Grange taking the first for Exhibition's herd and the Hon. Sydney Fisher for Breeder's young herd. While the sweepstakes and medal for Bull of any age was won by the Grange and the Cow ditto by Wm. Butler & Son, Dereham Centre, Oxford Co., Ont.

The Canadian Cattle were there in considerable numbers which we were glad to see, and hope that by careful selection this useful breed may be much improved.

Grade Cattle are not up to the mark, and if they are to be useful great care must be observed in the breeding, as scrubs are no use in these days of choice pure bred animals of any breed.