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Alberta Farming Special

One of the most useful efforts in the direction of better agriculture and rural home life put forward in Alberta is the "Mixed Farming Special," which started out on Monday, June 28, and wound up a very successful tour of Southern Alberta on July 9. The train has already covered the Aldersyde Branch of the C.P.R., the Foremost and Coutts Branch and the Langdon and Bassano Branch. Half a day was spent at each point. Two full days were put in at the Calgary Exhibition, where the train was one of the main attractions. From July 12 to July 20 the train is scheduled to run on the Calgary-Edmonton and Edmonton west lines of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

The purpose of the train is to demonstrate by samples and models, as well as to advise in practical talks, the way to better and more efficient farming and increased production, while the ladies' department is designed to give useful and practical suggestions to farm women. The train has been organized by the Alberta Department of Agriculture, assisted by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

At each point the train has visited there have been large attendances of farmers and their wives and families, to whom it has proved a source of interest and intelligent assistance. Experts from the Provincial Department of Agriculture, the Schools of Agriculture and others have been with the

treatment, instructors from the schools of agriculture and specialists in the employ of the department co-operating.

Another car contains exhibits of grains and grasses grown in Alberta, both in sheaf and threshed, mounted specimens of noxious weeds and collections of weed seeds. Samples of soil, divided according to their agricultural classification, varieties of seed potatoes suitable for Alberta, samples of legumes, with their various cultures, official grades of wheat and oats, Alberta grown fruit in bottles, and other striking illustrations of diversified farming are shown. Lectures supplementing the demonstrations, are given relating to general cultivation, seed selection, moisture conservation, the growing of fodder crops, and the habits and means of eradication of noxious weeds. The manner in which this car was prepared is very creditable to F. S. Grisdale, principal of the School of Agriculture at Vermilion, who had charge of the work.

Work of Students

The next car is made up of exhibits of the work done at the Schools of Agriculture in the province. This work is a revelation to many who have not visited the schools. It also includes models of dairy barns, constructed by the mechanics instructors at the schools. One of these is an up-to-date structure 72x38, to cost about \$2,500 and showing both the King and the



Display showing girls' work at the Alberta Schools of Agriculture in one of the cars of the Alberta Mixed Farming Special

train each day and have addressed the audiences, which have everywhere assembled, on matters pertaining to the farm and the farm home. The women have shown an interest in the train fully equal to that of the men, and at some points no less than 300 women have been present to hear the addresses of the lady instructors and examine the household devices carried in the women's car.

Twelve Cars

The train is comprised of twelve cars. One car is filled with livestock, which is taken out at each stopping place and short lectures given, the valuable points of the animals being pointed out and questions answered. Two dairy Shorthorn cows and a dairy Shorthorn bull from the Demonstration Farm at Sedgewick are being used. One of these cows, "Lady McKay 2nd," gave 10,941 pounds of milk, which tested 4.6 per cent. of fat. The bull is "Lochavon Glencoe," whose dam "Lula Ray," gave 9,058 pounds of milk. Percheron horses, loaned by E. A. Davenport, Acme, and Clydesdales from the Demonstration Farm at Olds are also used. Alex. Galbraith, the well known breeder, is accompanying the train and giving practical talks on horses. Duncan Anderson lectures on cattle. In addition to the milking Shorthorns mentioned, a Holstein, an Ayrshire and a beef Shorthorn are used for demonstration purposes. The lectures relate to breeds and types, breeding and feeding, management of stock, diseases and their

Rutherford systems of ventilation. Another barn of the same dimensions, but one story high, designed for a farmer of limited capital, is also shown. The latter is made in bents, so that it can be built to any size required. Plans of all the necessary buildings on the farm are placed on rollers on the walls and can be examined at leisure by the farmers visiting the train.

Another car is devoted to dairying and poultry. Here are seen exhibits of butter and dairy utensils, while demonstrations are given in Babcock testing. Instructive charts and memos for dairy workers are displayed. Practical talks on butter making and the care of both the raw material and the product are given by the Dairy Commissioner and his assistant. The poultry section, in charge of A. W. Foley, comprises models of various poultry appliances useful on the farm, including simple designs of trap nests and feed hoppers, brooders and chicken coops. Two of the most noticeable features are an automatic drinking fountain costing only a few cents and a protected hopper for feeding chicks amongst the flock.

In the Livestock Commissioner's car are exhibits of a very practical nature, showing a stable constructed mainly of brush, and which could be erected very cheaply in a brush country, simple methods of ventilating the small stable, feed cookers, and hog houses for summer and winter. On the walls of the cars are photos of the various types of

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