

FIELD NOTES

Events of the Week

CANADIAN.

Elections for the Provincial house in Prince Edward Island take place on Nov. 18th.

Newfoundland elections have resulted in a tie. Each party has eighteen seats in the house. It is expected that another election will be necessary inside of six months.

Four hundred pounds of dynamite on a river barge exploded opposite Montreal, one afternoon last week. There were no fatalities, but the concussion was so tremendous that windows were smashed, and buildings rocked so as to move the furniture.

Brandon Fair next year will be held from July 19th to 25th. The directors of the fair recommend the erection of a larger grand stand, an additional cattle barn and an office for the executive. The city will be asked to guarantee the bonds of the fair association to the amount of \$55,000.

Rails on the new Moose Jaw-Edmonton line have been laid to Outlook. This town, which less than three months ago, was a wheat field, to-day has 50 buildings, including a 48-roomed hotel, 2 drug stores, 3 banks, 3 liveries, 3 lumber yards, 2 harness shops, 2 hardwares, 4 general stores, 3 barber shops, 4 lunch rooms, 1 Chinese laundry and a population of 200. Proceedings are being taken to have Outlook incorporated a village, and a board of trade is already formed.

One of the worst tragedies in the history of the West occurred at Swan Lake, Manitoba, on the morning of Nov. 7th, when the Carey family, consisting of a father, mother, six children and a young lady school teacher, were burnt to death. The fire originated, it is supposed, from the kitchen stove which Mr. Carey was lighting. Coal oil was being used to start the fire, and in some manner, probably by explosion, is supposed to have started the conflagration. The family were caught upstairs and burned to death before escape could be effected. An investigation is being held.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The sixth Dreadnought, the battleship Collingwood, took the water at Devonport last week. The hull of this ship is the heaviest dead weight that ever left a launching slip.

It is reported that the body of Capt. Andree, who started for the north pole in 1897 in a balloon, has been found on the coast of Greenland. Nothing has been heard of the explorer since he left terra firma one afternoon in the summer of that year and drifted northward across the frozen Arctic.

The people of South Dakota, on Nov. 14th, voted overwhelmingly to end the famous divorce mill of that State. It will no longer be possible for discontented wives and husbands from all parts of the world to come to South Dakota and, by spending six months in the State, obtain by secret hearing their freedom. The divorce business was worth six hundred thousand a year to Sioux Falls.

What is described as the most stupendous mining fraud ever operated in America, the most dangerous get-rich scheme ever unearthed, a swindle beside which the Mississippi bubble is only the work of an amateur in comparison, was uncovered the other day in New York. The scheme by which the historical suckers were to be caught would have compared in magnitude with the Standard Oil Company. The business of the operators of the swindle, and some of them were prominent New York financiers, was to sell the public fake mining stock in Mexican gold mines. A land office business was done for a time, and hundreds of thousands of cold cash received for the fake stock.

The British suffragettes are prosecuting their campaign for "votes for women" with undiminished vigor. At present it is scarcely possible for a member of the government to appear in public without being mobbed by a band of frantic women demanding votes. Premier Asquith was attacked the other day at private luncheon with friends, one of the other guests, a female, suddenly assailing him with cries of "votes for women," and the premier was forced to retire to another room. An elaborate campaign is being outlined by this notoriety seeking suffragette organization in which some hair-raising stunts are to be pulled off for the annoyance of government officials, the amusement of the public, and the supposed advancement of the cause of women's suffrage.

Seed Fairs in Manitoba

The Seed Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, under whose auspices seed fairs and field-grain competitions were inaugurated, has notified those agricultural societies in Manitoba which co-operated in the work, that it will not take any part this year in conducting seed fairs. This means that any work of this kind that is done in the Province will be under the auspices of the Provincial Department of Agriculture. Preparations for such work have already been undertaken, and the conditions governing the conduct of the fairs have been circulated by Principal Black, Managing Director of Agricultural Societies.

For some reason or other, Manitoba farmers did not take enthusiastically to the seed fair and field-grain competitions as carried on under the Seed Division, and unless more interest is taken in it in the future, a line of agricultural work capable of very greatly improving crops will be found abortive.

The U. S. Country Life Commission

Among the chief problems to be investigated by the commission recently appointed by President Roosevelt were the causes of the drift of the young people from the country to the city. A good many reasons are being given for the movement city-wards in the country people, but the one given most frequently is that the long hours of labor on the farm give no chance for recreation, intellectual development or social intercourse. The farmer is an 8 hour man—8 hours in the forenoon and eight in the afternoon. The farmer's wife arises at 3.30 in the morning and labors from that until 8 or 9 p.m. Absence of system, of business method on farms, lack of the business education essential to such utilization of labor-saving machinery and appliances that the sum of manual labor on the farm will be reduced, the hours of labor shortened, is another point made.

On these points an American exchange has these comments to make:

"Long hours of labor, inability to rest or recreate during any but sleeping hours, with no opportunity for intellectual development, is the almost universal complaint of the children and hired help of the farms, and these seem to be the chiefest sources of complaint.

"It is strange that the marvelous labor-saving instrumentalities of the times have not shortened the daily hours of labor on the farm. It amazes one to learn that way back in the days of the sickle the cradle, the hand-rake, the man-manipulated pitch fork and hoe, there was no complaint, at least none is recorded, about the excessively long hours of each day's toil. Machinery in shop, mill and factory has relieved human muscle, has shortened hours of labor, and at the same time enormously increased the productive ability of the laborer. On the farm, on the contrary, labor-saving machinery seems, on the surface, to have lengthened the hours of manual labor.

"May it not be possible that systems which farmers themselves have supported and perpetuated have had much to do with causing the complaints regarding farm life which are now so universal? May not the absorption of enough of industry-made wealth to create hosts of individual fortunes of unprecedented size—the possessors of which really created but a very small portion of the fortunes—have had very much to do with neutralizing the labor-saving qualities of farm machinery? The fortunes would have been impossible if the dollars of which they consist had not been dug from the soil, in some way; therefore, if those who did not dig got a large proportion of the digger's earnings, will it be a difficult matter to reveal one cause of the farmer's long hours of toil and the miner's humble cot and life of unsatisfied longing, in spite of labor-saving machinery?"

English Notes

A period of settled weather extending over the whole month of October is very uncommon in England. The harvest was cleared up in the early part of the month, and although the corn was in a damaged condition it was not nearly so bad as seemed probable from the previous wretched weather.

Farmers have made good progress in ploughing and seeding, the heavy rains at the end of September making the heavier clay soils much more workable. The area under wheat promises to be larger than last year, prices are fairly well maintained, and the general outlook is bright.

The grass has grown quickly under the favorable conditions and the promise of winter food is much improved. The potato crop is very large, prices though are lower. Mangolds are an especially good crop, in fact, root crops generally are good.

The new Small Holdings Act is certainly proving a success in so far as the acquisition of land is concerned. Since the act came into force at the beginning of the year, 13,471 acres have actually been acquired by 33 county authorities. It is interesting to note that under the previous act, which was a permissive one, only 569 acres were acquired by the eight counties adopting it during the ten years the act was in force.

In an editorial on British Foreign Trade the usually well-informed "Statist" expects that the prices of wheat imported into the United Kingdom will be appreciably lower during the current crop season ending with August next, than they have been in the past crop season.

The failure of the Indian monsoon last year led to the retention in India of wheat which buyers of the cereal had expected would be sent abroad. This year considerable shipments of old wheat may be made from India as soon as the new harvest is regarded as quite safe.

The government estimate of the hop crop gives the acreage as 38,920, and the yield 12.10 cwt. to the acre, compared with 44,938 acres last year, and a yield of 8.33 cwt.

Kent has the highest average, 12.98 cwt., Gloucester has 10.22 cwt., and Herefordshire only 9.79 cwt. Some sections suffered severely from the heavy August rains. The quality of the hops shown at the recent Brewer's Exhibition at Islington was surprisingly good considering the unfavorable harvest weather.

Sir Oliver Lodge speaking on unemployment and the land problem in Great Britain advocated a solution along these lines: "It was not so much in the direction of wage earning that unemployment could be attacked. It seemed to him that in relation to land the solution was in the first place, that much land was at present unreclaimed; second, the land repaid labour, and wherever labour was or was not wanted, it was wanted on the land. Third, all food came from the land. They talked of interest, but there was no interest so high as they got when they put seed into the ground. He would like to see instead of the "right to work" the "right to stand and dig."

The annual show of Cheshire cheese at Chester brought out 442 entries, and the weight of cheese shown was between 70 and 80 tons. The cheese was of splendid quality, colored predominating. The Gold Medal and Barbour Challenge Cup were awarded to Mr. E. Cookson of Poulton, second honors going to Mr. G. W. Cholmondeley.

In spite of wet weather the October Fair at Donington, Lincoln, was well attended. The horse show was of about average quality, and cart horses sold up to 55 gs. Sound yearlings were in good demand at fair prices. Fewer cattle than usual were shown.

The Carlisle October sale comprized 1,500 Blue-Grey, Galloway, Shorthorn and West Highland cattle. The quality of the various breeds was excellent and they were in good condition. There was a large attendance of buyers, and prices as a whole were satisfactory. In the horse section the sale entries were 420—the largest for years. The top price was 105 gs. paid by Mr. Joicey for a seven-year-old chestnut mare.

The Kennel Club Show at the Crystal Palace was the best ever held under the management of the club. There were 1,752 entries and the show was very liberally patronized by the public.

Many sales of prize winners were made, the rough-coated fox-terrier, "Wire Result" selling for £130, and the bloodhound, "Mary of Burgundy" for £100. The Champion Cup for best dog or bitch in the show was won by Mr. F. W. Breakill's Irish terrier, "Kil-larney Sport."

The sale of Mr. Shirley's non-pedigree Shorthorn dairy cows was well attended and brought spirited competition. Seventy-two head averaged about £28. The cow "Maisie," reserve for the Challenge cup at the recent Dairy Show was sold to Mr. J. H. Maden for £100.

Westmoreland's great sheep fair at Kirkby Stephen established in 1329, was as usual accompanied by many quaint ceremonies. Some 20,000 sheep were for sale, but competition was slack. Prices being 10 to 11 shillings per head lower than last year.

The council has decided that the third International Horse Show shall be held at Olympia from June 5th to 15th, 1909. The total value of the premium will be £12,000. An international gold cup, value £500, is to be offered to teams of three officers from any army in the world.

There is a good demand for hunters at Tattersall's, prices ranging from 150 to 240 guineas. The late Mr. H. E. Lamb's polo ponies realized an average of £96. "Freddy" a very handsome pony reaching 230 guineas.

Exceptionally high prices were obtained at the Earl of Ellesmere's sale of large white pigs. Sixty-six guineas was paid for one specimen, and 120 averaged £10.9s. Buyers were present from the continent and the United States, and the bidding was keen. That there is large scope for further development of this branch of stock breeding in Britain is shown by last year's importations of nearly £20,000, 600 worth of bacon, ham and pork.

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