



T. J. Berry's Residence and Sale Stables, Hensall, Ont.

## A Live Budget from the West

### Breeders' Meetings—Edmonton as a Stock Centre—Keeping out Scrub Horses

By Our Western Correspondent.

Winnipeg, Feb. 6th, 1904.

We have been having cold weather here, but not to the degree that some correspondents of Eastern papers have represented. There has been no delay in the arrival or departure of trains, except those from the East, which have been behind time pretty steadily. There have been no deaths from cold or exposure. Business has not been interrupted and school has kept every day as usual. But it has been cold just the same, and we expect it will be cold next winter and the winter after that.

While we are on this subject, we would like to remind Eastern readers that the reputation of Canada as a place of cold and snow and ice was made many years ago before the North-West was known to the world except as the game preserve of the Hudson's Bay Co. Canada was then only Ontario and Quebec, and if today the people of the old country think of this land as an ice-bound desert it is due to the accounts and pictures sent from those provinces to friends, relatives and newspapers across the water.

Arrangements are now being completed for the annual conventions to take place during the latter part of the present month. Commencing on the 22nd inst. and ending on the 26th, there will be the meetings of the following Associations: The Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association, the Pure-Bred Cattle Breeders' Association, the Dairy Association, the Horse Breeders' Association, the Bee-keepers' Association and the Western Horticultural Society.

I have just received from a correspondent in the Territories the following account of the Live Stock Convention at Edmonton, Alta. It is evident that breeders and ranchers are thoroughly awake to the advantages of meeting their fellows as often as possible. The number of Provincial and Territorial conventions increases each year, and with this increase in number, there is a still more marked increase in the attendance at each. My correspondent writes:

"Our Edmonton meeting, closing the two days' school of stock judging, was well attended. The speakers were Mr.

Geo. Harcourt, Supt. of Fairs and Institutes, A. G. Hopkins, V.S., both of whom you know well, and Dr. McGilvray, V.S., of Inscarth, Man. The chairman, Mr. G. H. Stuart-Wade, spoke of the benefit of such meetings, and particularly when men who are noted specialists in their work, were secured to give addresses. Personally, he had given more attention to horticulture than to agricultural matters. In that line he had found that one of the needs of the country was an Experimental Farm at Edmonton, and he believed that all branches of agriculture would be benefited thereby. He urged the farmers to go more largely into horse breeding, for which industry the Edmonton district seems to be especially adapted.

Dr. Hopkins spoke at length on contagious diseases of animals and referred to the British embargo on Canadian cattle as a means of protecting the British farmer—not, however, against diseased cattle, but against competition. It should be removed as a matter of pure justice. Then, by exercising care, to prevent the occurrence of disease in our herds, the Canadians could secure the best part, and in time the whole, of the British meat trade. The latter portion of his address was an instructive treatise on contagious diseases and their prevention and cure. Glanders, blackleg, hog cholera, lumpy-jaw, and tuberculosis were considered.

"The treatment of brood mares was dealt with by Dr. McGilvray, who handled the subject with thoroughness and took great pains in answering questions. The frequency of these latter demonstrated the interest taken in the subject by the audience.

"Mr. Harcourt stuck to his usual theme and endeavored to impress on his audience the importance of the Agricultural Society to the community. He described it as a sort of farmers' union. It is for mutual help and protection, and if the farmers were not obtaining these from it the fault was their own. He was pleased with the start that had been made at Edmonton, and hoped that the meetings would in the near future extend over a whole week instead of two days, as at present. Improvement in agriculture was mainly the result of careful study, and experiment,

and these were made public property through the agricultural papers and libraries and public meetings. There was no way of encouraging improvement equal to the fairs where prizes were given for merit in all lines. He regarded the show ring as the best educator in live stock matters. The work of a society could not be carried on by one or two—all must do their share or they could not expect to obtain the best results. He advocated the formation of a Women's Institute at Edmonton. His address concluded with a eulogy of the farming possibilities of the district, which sent every one away with a happy smile."

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A series of meetings is being held throughout the Territories of which the Edmonton meeting here reported may be considered a fair sample. The program in each case is a two-day course of instruction in stock judging with demonstrations by the two veterinary surgeons named and an evening meeting with addresses by these gentlemen and Mr. Harcourt. The meetings have been attended with an encouraging degree of interest, and are a credit to the year's work done by the Supt. of Societies, Mr. Harcourt. The closing meeting of the series will be held at Indian Head, where there will also be present the speakers engaged for the Manitoba conventions, as reported in our last issue, including Prof. J. H. Grisdale, of Ottawa, W. S. Spark, of Canterbury, Eng., P. Ketchen, Ottawa, Geo. H. Clark, Ottawa, and the Hon. W. Elliott, Territorial Commissioner of Agriculture.

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Mr. H. C. Telfer, of Montreal, passed through Winnipeg on his way west during the past week. Asked for his views on the matter, Mr. Telfer said: "I think that an earnest effort should be made by the Canadian Government to prevent the importation of scrub horses from the United States and to encourage the breeding of good horses in the West. During the South African war the British Government would have purchased 100,000 horses in Canada if they could have been obtained of the required standard, but they were not to be had. Everything points to war in the near future and there may be war in the far East for years to come, and the natural market for the purchase of horses for the East is the Northwest of America."

"If, however, the present system of importing scrubs is continued and the farmers breed these, as they certainly will, when the time comes to sell they will have nothing fit for army purposes.