

Electrifying Canada's Railways

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Sir Adam has announced that the C.P.R., realizing the need of electrification and Canada's dependence upon a foreign nation for other fuel, is moving in the direction of a radical change in policy. The company is in constant touch with the electrified Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, and within the past few months applied to the Ontario Hydro Electric Power commission for data on the cost of electrifying Ontario lines, on the cost of electrical operation, and finally on the possibility of obtaining a supply of power from the people's power system.

Benefits of Electrification Demonstrated

Nor is Sir Adam's knowledge of electric railways theoretical. One of his first moves in this direction was the electrification on model principles of the London and Port Stanley railway, operating over a 25-mile course between his home city of London and Lake Erie. He was bitterly opposed by anti-public ownership factions, but the work was accomplished in 1915, and the road, which for 50 years had been a white elephant, was immediately put on its feet. It handles heavy freight and passenger business and multiplied its traffic capacity, on the single track, because electricity gives a railroad flexibility. The cost of operation was slashed and revenue mounted.

Canada's climate is one of Sir Adam's arguments in support of his proposals. "Engine failures" that account for demoralization of steam roads every time the mercury falls or a snow storm comes, are unknown on an electric line. The cold doesn't bother its steaming ability, nor do the snows put the locomotives' fires out.

When the continental blizzard swept over the London district in January the great trunk steam systems were hopelessly tied up within 10 hours and so they remained for upwards of a week. Some trains with six locomotives could not buck through the drifts because practically all the locomotives were scarcely able to move themselves. But meanwhile the electrified London and Port Stanley railway maintained a two-hour passenger service throughout the storm, and handled its freight traffic with dispatch. The electric locomotives, strangely at their highest efficiency under such conditions, walked through the snow-banks and, though the running time was a little slower, they always came through.

These then are among the reasons that Sir Adam is on the warpath again. Ontario hopes he may again achieve success for her, and for Canada, but frankly, Ontario's dependence this time is very largely the public ownership sentiment of the grain growing country west of the great lakes.

CURRENT EVENTS

John Dillon, the new leader of the Irish Nationalists, declares that if the Irish convention fails the Irish question will assume within a week or two a more formidable shape than ever. He is of the opinion that Ireland is on the eve of one of the most momentous struggles in all its tragic history.

The Board of Pension Commissioners have issued a statement showing that the total monthly expenditures for pensions up to October last, was \$434,909. The increases in pensions allowed and the increased claims are expected to bring the pension list up to \$1,000,000 per month during the coming financial year.

G. H. Welsby, formerly paymaster for district No. 10, pleaded guilty to the theft of \$11,000 of Government money and was sentenced last week to one year and eleven months in the penitentiary.

All Dutch shipping in Allied ports has been seized and will be commissioned for service. Losses will be made good. Approximately 77 vessels with a total tonnage of 600,000 will thus be added to the American merchant marine. The ships in British waters will add another 300,000 to 400,000 tons to the Allied merchant fleets.

Awards at Alberta Dairy Convention

The recent Alberta Dairy Convention was featured with a number of splendid addresses, many interesting discussions and as a result the standard of the butter and cheese produced in the province will no doubt be brought a few points nearer the degree of perfection which it is now approaching.

There were splendid competitions in the various classes, and it is a tribute to the high standard of the butter manufactured in this province, when a glance at the list of awards shows the widely distributed area over which the prizes have been dispersed.

Provincial Dairy Commissioner C. F. Marker, who had charge of the arrangements, says that he was so busy during the convention that he did not have time to realize just what a good gathering it was, but now when he gets a proper perspective, he is highly satisfied.

Following is a list of the awards:

Awards in "Season's Butter Scoring Contest," Alberta, 1917

Table with columns: Creamery, Buttermaker, Average total score, Average flavor score. Lists 15 creameries and their respective buttermakers and scores.

A trophy and gold medal were given for first prize and silver medals to the others; in addition A. F. Slade gave \$100 in cash which was apportioned among the first eight.

Awards in the Convention Creamery Butter Exhibit, Summer Season

This exhibit consists of a 14 pound box of butter, solid pack, put up in each of the months of May, June, July, August, September and October. Judging is made along the lines of flavor, texture, salt, color and package.

Table with columns: Name, Average. Lists 8 creameries and their average scores for the summer season exhibit.

This exhibit consists of one 14 pound box of butter, solid pack, put up during each of the months of November, December and January. In this contest The Alberta Dairy Supplies, Ltd., of Edmonton, presented the sum of \$100, divided into eight prizes.

Table with columns: Name, Points. Lists 8 creameries and their points for the winter season exhibit.

The Exhibitions Contest

The Alberta Dairy Supplies Ltd., Edmonton, offered two prizes for the buttermakers who received the highest awards for their exhibits at the following large Exhibitions in Canada during 1917, viz., Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Brandon, Vancouver, Toronto, London and Ottawa.

1—A. Storrer, of the Carlyle Dairy, Calgary. 2—W. Hansen, Innisfail Creamery.

Grading of Creamery Butter

Supporting his statements at the Dairy Convention of the value of grading creamery butter, and showing the number of pounds graded, C. Marker, dairy commissioner, had compiled the following figures, which are of special interest.

Table with columns: Summer Season 1916, Summer Season 1917, Summer Season 1915, Summer Season 1914, Summer Season 1917. Lists creameries, pounds, specials, firsts, seconds, and O.G. scores.

Butter Judging Contest

In a class of 14 creamery buttermakers taking part in this contest, George Nielsen, of The Dan Moberg Company's Creamery, Red Deer, won the gold watch presented by the J. B. Ford Company, Wyandotte, Mich.

Specials for Highest Points

Special prizes offered to the three exhibitors who received the highest number of points in their combined convention butter exhibit, summer and winter section; offered by the J. G. Cherry Company, Cedar Rapids, Ia., through the Alberta Dairy Supplies Company:

- 1—A. Storrer, Carlyle Dairy, Calgary, average 96.4—90 lb. Friday butter printer complete.
2—O. Severson, Calgary Central Creamery, Calgary, average 95.9—Ames Cherry Moisture Test.
3—George Nielsen, Dan Moberg Company, Red Deer, average 95.8—McKay Cream Sampler.

Highest Average in June and July

Highest average score of butter exhibits, made in June and July—Special prize presented by Louis F. Nafta Company, through Alberta Dairy Supplies:

1—A. Storrer, Carlyle Dairy, Calgary.

Winners of the Trophies

Wm. Hansen, of the Dan Moberg Company, Innisfail, won the trophy presented by the Provincial Department of Agriculture, as winner of the season's butter scoring contest. A. Storrer, of the Carlyle Dairy Company, Calgary, gets the P. Burns' Challenge Trophy, as winner of the highest average score in the convention creamery butter exhibit, summer section.

Donated Cash Prizes

The De Laval Company gave \$125 in cash to be divided into eight prizes in the provincial special, and the same amount to be divided into three prizes in the inter-provincial special.

Cheesemakers' Contest

This exhibit consists of one Canadian Cheese, made during the months of June, July, August and September. Prize winners are as follows:

Table with columns: Name, Points. Lists 7 creameries and their points for the cheesemakers' contest.

Cheese Judging Contest

In a close contest, A. Storrer, of the Carlyle Dairy, Calgary, won the special prize, a Babcock Milk Tester, presented by the D. H. Burrell Co., Little Falls, N.Y., through the Alberta Supplies, Ltd., Edmonton.

Winners of Special Cheese Prizes

All individual cheese scoring over 94 points participate in the prize money. \$75.00 offered by the Canadian Salt Co., Windsor, Ontario. A. A. Buffam, of the Woodland Dairy, Ltd., won the special prize with 97.9 points, offered by the Parke, Davis and Company, Walkerville, Ontario, to the exhibitor getting the highest scoring cheese made with Curdalone. The prize was one case of Curdalone. W. Hamilton, of the Calgary Central Creamery, won Lou's F. Nafta Co. special, presented by the Nafta Co., of Chicago, to the exhibitor of the highest scoring individual cheese on exhibition. The prize was one complete "Nafta Automatic Acidity Test." Score, 97.6 points. W. Hamilton, of the Calgary Central Creamery, won the Ellis-Grogan trophy for highest score in the cheese contest. He also won first prize, the Canadian Salt Co. Special.—Calgary Market Examiner.

SASKATCHEWAN SHORTHORN CLUB

During the Regina Spring Sales the Shorthorn men of Saskatchewan made an auspicious beginning in organization by starting the Saskatchewan Shorthorn Club. Some 42 members were received at the first meeting which is an excellent beginning. A complete list of officers is not yet available but the

secretary is M. Follitt, Duval, Sask. Mr. Follitt is enthusiastic about the future for Shorthorns in Saskatchewan and wants to get in touch with every man breeding or intending to breed Shorthorns in that province.

The same constitution and by-laws as adopted by the Manitoba Shorthorn Club has been adopted by the new Saskatchewan club. This makes three Shorthorn clubs in Western Canada, one in each province, formed since last November when the first was started in Alberta. The secretaries of these three clubs are Chas. Beaching, Nanton, Alberta; Mr. Follitt for Saskatchewan; and Jas. B. Davidson, Myrtle, Manitoba for Manitoba. Every man interested in Shorthorns should get in touch with one of these men. They can tell you of many things that will assist you in your Shorthorn work and in the improvement of the common herds of the country.

CALF COMPETITION AT EDMONTON

Dominion and American livestock associations are taking a very active interest in the calf feeding competition for the spring livestock show being held in Edmonton, April 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. They are showing their interest in a very practical way and in addition to the special prizes already announced in the spring prize list, the Dominion Shorthorn Association is giving \$50 in cash prizes and the Alberta Aberdeen-Angus Association is giving \$50 and the American Aberdeen-Angus Association is giving another \$50, making a total of \$150 over and above what appeared in the prize list.

The other livestock associations that are giving special prizes and that are mentioned in the prize list are, the Canadian Hereford Breeders' Association, the Alberta Hereford Breeders' Association, the Alberta Hereford Breeders' Association, the Canadian Aberdeen-Angus Association, and the Alberta Provincial Shorthorn Association, \$50 each.

The Bank of Commerce and the Merchants Bank have each given \$50 towards the prize in this event making altogether over \$1,400 in cash besides watches and a variety of special prizes.

Rural Municipal Affairs

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At any rate the actions gave the best results.

In the matter of roads, the part of the division in which our friend resided was particularly neglected, owing to the fact that the electors had always stayed home on election day. The councillor ignored their needs and had the roads built in the parts of the division where the electors turned out to vote, which was, of course, policy on his part. Mr. Weston called the attention of the electors to the fact they were being ignored for lack of interest in municipal affairs, as shown by not exercising their franchise. At the next nomination for councillors a man from our neglected corner was nominated, and every man in the community turned out and voted on election day. Although their man was not elected, their show of opposition had a salutary effect, as the councillor visited the neighborhood the following spring to investigate the road requirements and considerable improvements were effected.

Mr. Weston next canvassed the neighborhood to find out the feeling with regard to having a telephone system installed and connected with the town. Everyone thought a telephone system would be a great acquisition, but doubted the feasibility of building one. Mr. Weston explained the "Saskatchewan Rural Telephone Act," and called a meeting in the town to talk over the project. Mr. Brierson intimated that it would be a good thing to have a system, but doubted whether the majority would agree to build one on account of the expenses. The meeting was held and a company was organized, in which Mr. Weston acted as a director. After going through the necessary formalities, as laid down in the act, the telephone system was built and everyone was agreed that it was a great boon to the communities who were connected with it.

Mr. Weston, at every opportunity, made it clear that the community would keep going ahead and be developed along progressive lines as long as the idea of co-operation was held by the inhabitants and advised that the community spirit be fostered and individualism be allowed to die a natural death. "Team work is what counts," said he, "and we must realize that no man must be a soloist."

Mr. Brierson now sings his solo to an empty house, for Mr. Weston has proven to the satisfaction of our community that there will be little cause for complaint if every individual will do his part in looking after "everybody's business."

W. H. LAMMING. Plunkett, Sask.