

# FAMILY HERALD AND Weekly Star

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Canada's National Farm Magazine

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## THE ROYAL SHOW'S SUCCESS

**T**HE ROYAL WINTER FAIR is accepted now as a sort of annual barometrical indication of the value and success of Canadian farming!

Essentially and originally it was mainly a live stock exhibition, serving well to emphasize the fact that although the Dominion claimed a premier position among wheat-producing countries, it had other claims also to leading positions among the nations that served agriculture.

Now the Royal Fair has undoubted and well-proven rights to be considered as furnishing an index to the year's story of farming in all its branches, and in all sections of the Dominion.

How completely the exhibition covers all of its sections is well exemplified in the breeding-cattle departments, where the exhibits include calves, heifers, and milch-cows. Feeders and fat stock with carcasses dressed on the fair grounds, showed active competitions, throughout all the classifications, and brought to its climax the whole of the cattle industry.

The same critical divisions of the prize lists is to be seen in all of the numerous departments, which are being added to each year in order that from initiation to complete fulfilment, competitors may check the progress of their plans or experiments at every stage of growth, by the measure of success of their competitors.

This is one of many aspects of the educational force of the Exhibition, which is bound to have a considerable effect upon the farming of the future.

Encouragement given to foreign entries adds an emphasis to the value of competitions in the several classifications of the live stock.

This year all the lists of heavier and medium-weight horses were well filled.

Most of the Province's contributed to the lists of three hundred and twenty-odd Clydesdales, Percherons and Belgians which gave their judges many hours of painful consideration.

It is doubtful whether a finer lot of useful animals could be gathered together anywhere!

In cattle, the Ayrshires appear to have the advantage—in numbers at any rate—over the Holsteins this year, and as will be gathered from reproductions of actual photographs by our own artists on the Fair Grounds, all other breeds were well represented.

The new Trade Agreements with the United States causes renewed attention to be paid to beef cattle, and the magnificent specimens shown, lead to the hope of a great response to the near-by markets of our neighboring country.

Swine made a bigger show this year than ever before, Yorkshires, Tamworths and Berkshires, being in the lead.

To make the testing of the pigs more certain auction-sales were held early in the fair season, and the eagerness which characterized the bidding up to good prices of breed-

ing animals, proved once again the appreciation of good blood on the part of Canadian farmers.

Sheep are not so promising in some sections as are other farm animals, and it is becoming more and more evident that it is not always a paying proposition to raise them only for the butcher.

News of greater attention out West to wool-qualities, accompanied by stories of finer grades being produced by imported animals promise improvement in the income to be derived from these "creatures of the golden-hoof."

Poultry, pet-stock, as well as grains and roots were all in evidence again and every class has its enthusiasts who believe in and work for pre-eminence as a goal to be greatly desired.

Dairy produce again finds a place in the Exhibition, and the very numerous entries were as nearly perfect as any found in Canadian competitions in the past.

Altogether the 1935 Royal Winter was as progressively fine and promising as could well have been expected under present world-conditions.

## FARM TOPICS

### PROMINENT FARMER PASSES

**B**Y THE DEATH of Robert Miller in a lamentable railway crossing accident, the Dominion has lost its most widely known farmer and breeder of live-stock. Of Scottish descent, from a family closely linked with Clydesdale history, Mr. Miller was born near Stouffville, Ont., seventy-eight years ago. Always devoted to live stock, he soon gave evidence of an inborn knowledge of breed types, and characteristics, from which developed a rare judgment and fine discrimination which procured him an immense reputation, fairly to be described as world-wide.

In Australia, Argentina, Mexico, France and Germany his name was known as an authority, and as a judge at international exhibitions he was called upon frequently to take trips across both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. In early life he went to Great Britain to select sheep, cattle and horses for the improvement of Canadian stock, and his choice was justified in practically every case.

To illustrate the correctness of his judgment he was asked by a distinguished English authority to select a herd of sheep to be sent to Tasmania for two brothers who were building up a strain in Australia. Twenty years later Mr. Miller was serving as a judge of sheep and cattle at the greatest live stock show in the world at Palermo, near Buenos Aires. One class contained 210 Lincoln rams on which he worked for hours sorting and grading. Finally he singled out four and awarded them the ribbons. Later he was told that these four sheep were owned by the two brothers who had recently migrated from Tasmania to the Argentine, bringing their herds with them. He had selected from the huge class the very strain which he had selected 20 years earlier!

In Mexico he was asked by the President Porfirio Diaz to purchase cattle and sheep in order to build up the herds of the nation from below mediocrity.

The choicest of the world's cattle were brought to the Miller farm at Stouffville. He had been President of the Royal Winter Fair and was on his way to it once more, when death overtook him and his wife also.

As a business man he would probably have made his mark in any department of life, and as a companion his presence was everywhere sought after. His influence upon Canadian farming will be lasting and in more than one respect well-nigh permanent.

### MORE FLAXSEED WANTED

**W**ESTERN FARMERS are overlooking an opportunity of producing a grain that is in keen demand at the present time, according to a paint manufacturer. His company has a linseed oil factory in Saskatchewan and is offering \$1.40 a bushel for all the flaxseed delivered. Yet the plant has to remain idle part of the time for lack of supplies. For some reason the acreage of flax in the prairie provinces has dropped so that the present yield of seed is not much over half a million bushels. Canadian manufacturers can utilize about 2,500,000 bushels each year and the Canadian yield has been running so short that great quantities of linseed oil have to be imported from Argentina. This crop is well adapted to prairie soils and climate and one reason for its popularity in earlier years was the fact that it could be sown on new breaking. There is little basis for the fear that a flax crop will exhaust the land.

### PLENTY OF HAY

**A**FTER A YEAR of scarcity stockmen in most parts of the Dominion find themselves with an abundance of feed. This applies particularly to hay, of which almost every province has a surplus. Estimates made by the Dominion Market Service indicate the commercial crop in Quebec to be over 300,000 tons. About two-thirds of this is in the counties along the St. Lawrence.

The New Brunswick output though much smaller will grade high. Ontario has only a fair quantity, mostly from the east and north. There is actually a carry-over from the 1934 crop in the Lower Ottawa Valley. Alfalfa figures largely in the counties bordering on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. The actual amounts of timothy and alfalfa available are rather uncertain, as higher prices would bring out supplies that are now held for feed. Only a small export demand is expected as the United States and Britain have fair crops of hay and other fodder. The new import duty of \$3 into the United States as against the previous \$5 will strengthen the market even if it does not create much trade.

The prairie provinces are well provided with timothy, brome and wild hay and in addition large quantities of alfalfa in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Lethbridge and Vauxhall are centres of supply for alfalfa. Six thousand tons of wild hay and enormous quantities of green feed are reported from the Edmonton area.

### FARM BRIEFS

More than 300,000 pies could be made from the pumpkin harvest reaped in the Colebrook district of British Columbia this season. The yield totalled 150 tons, worth at least \$15,000 to the growers.

Almost a third of Canada's creamery butter production in the ten months of the present year was contributed by Quebec Province factories, or 66,169,000 pounds out of 215,449,205 pounds.

Shipments of Canadian apples to the Old Country as Christmas gifts are increasing each year. From the Georgian Bay district about 1,500 boxes have gone with quantities from other points.

A grower at South Waterville, Annapolis Valley, has received returns from a shipment of 35 barrels of Bramley Seedlings to London, England. The price received for No. 1's was 35 shillings and for the lot an average price of \$6.42 per barrel was realized.

Conveyors were used recently for the first time in any part of Prince Edward Island in loading a cargo of potatoes into a steamer. The machines, which give protection to cargoes in all weathers, were designed on plans that have been developing for the past few years.

Extensive replacement of farm machinery will be necessary in the next few years on prairie farms, according to Dr. Wm. Allen of the University of Saskatchewan. This opinion is based on an exhaustive survey made in a number of districts.

The trade in cod liver oil has increased greatly through its use in live stock rations. A Norwegian freighter recently landed 250 casks of cod liver oil at Port Stanley, which was part of a mixed cargo from Newfoundland.

The drop in exports of farm produce from the United States as expressed in percentages is almost incredible. The latest records indicate less wheat by 75.00 per cent and less corn by 67.5 per cent. Heaviest increases in imports are in corn, oats and dairy products.

According to the latest estimates there were 55,700,000 sheep in North America in 1934. Canada had 3,400,000; the United States 52,200,000, and Newfoundland 100,000. In 1933, the number of sheep in the world was estimated at 688,300,000.

There has been a marked increase in the production of fine wool in Western Canada, according to W. H. J. Tisdale, of the Co-operative Wool Growers. The fine grade class has grown from two to forty per cent in the past fifteen years, due mainly to importation of suitable breeding stock.

Under the Housing Acts which aim to improve the cottages for farm workers in England, thirty to forty thousand people now have better living conditions. Since 1926 loans have been provided in 10,000 cases, the administration being in the hands of the County and Rural district councils.

Stock car inspectors of the Health of Animals Branch, Dominion Department of Agriculture, are maintained at 288 railway centres throughout Canada. All stock cars arriving at or passing through these points are cleaned and disinfected when necessary under supervision of these inspectors. Limewash, plus an approved disinfectant, is used. During the fiscal year, ended March 31, 1935, the number of cars thus disinfected was 72,774.

Electric soil heating for propagation of seeds and promoting growth of plants to be set out in fields, is making headway in Canada. The Dominion Department of Agriculture reports installations in Ontario greenhouses have proven satisfactory. Also in hotbeds and cold frames for propagating seeds of tomatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, egg plant peppers, cucumbers, certain flowers and sweet potatoes, the use of electric soil heating has proven valuable.

With the idea of aiding Essex and Kent county farmers to market their corn crop more advantageously, a survey will be conducted by the Dominion Department of Agriculture into the situation in these two counties. Prices, possible production in normal years, quality of corn produced and facilities for handling the corn will all be investigated. The corn-growers are asking for abrogation of the treaty with South Africa which permits corn from that country to enter Canada duty free.