

Our Annual Exhibition And Agricultural Display

Review of the History of the Charlottetown Driving Park and Provincial Exhibition Association and an Appeal for Greater Support for the Coming Exhibition

By Mr. James Paton, President.

First of all let me congratulate the Agricultural Associations on the great success of their meetings held during the past week. As President of the Charlottetown Driving Park and Provincial Exhibition Association, I thought it might have been possible for the combined Associations to find time with our directors to discuss matters pertaining to the exhibition that will be held in August; however, the programme was so fully occupied, there was no opportunity for another meeting.

The success of co-operation was demonstrated at the various meetings. The Agricultural Associations should now co-operate with the Exhibition Association. The Exhibition was inaugurated principally for the benefit of those who pursue agriculture. We need the farmers' advice and assistance, more this year than ever. We want to make this year's exhibition a banner one. Other provinces are making an extra effort, let us all pull together. We want exhibitors from all parts of this province. The Association will pay freight on all exhibits of live stock shipped by rail or boat from any point in Prince Edward Island outside a radius of 50 miles from Charlottetown. This arrangement will put farmers living in Prince and Kings Counties on a par with Queens County exhibitors.

Before successful co-operation can be achieved it is proper for the parties concerned to know something of one another. Some of our people have the idea, and have so expressed themselves: 1st.—That the shareholders of the Association receive good dividends. 2nd.—That the Directors are highly paid. 3rd.—That part of the grant of money received from the government is used for horse race purposes. Let me disabuse your mind on all three questions.

1st.—Since the inauguration of the company in 1893, the shareholders have received a little over one per cent on their investment, an amount I am satisfied no one can claim to be excessive.

2nd.—The Directors, everyone of them, and our Secretary, Mr. Boulger, give their time and service without money or remuneration of any kind. 3rd.—Not one single cent of government grant is used for racing purposes, in fact, if it were not for the profits from the horse races, the Association could never have added the new building requisite for the accommodation of Live Stock.

How has it come about that this Province is in possession of such beautiful grounds and fine buildings principally used for agricultural purposes, all without costing the government one cent?

Nowhere throughout the Dominion of Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific, can we find a parallel. Nova Scotia Government gave two hundred thousand dollars and the City of Halifax a similar amount towards erecting exhibition buildings. All deficits are paid between government and city.

Saint John, New Brunswick exhibition buildings were erected by government and city. Calgary's exhibition buildings are provided for the company and receive a yearly government grant of eight thousand dollars. The companies have also paid managers, secretaries and stenographers.

I could name other Exhibition Associations that are financially assisted, when erecting new buildings for exhibition purposes.

ITS HISTORY

A short history of our Association might interest some of the Guardian readers especially those who are exhibitors. Previous to, and including the year 1888, the Exhibition at Charlottetown was held in the Drill Shed. All exhibits except live stock were shown therein. The live stock was shown in an adjoining field tied to fences. These exhibitions lasted but one day. It happened, that on the second day of October, 1888, a number of citizens seeing the necessity of this province having suitable buildings and grounds for exhibition purposes, held a meeting in Davies and Sutherland's office. At that meeting an estimate was made for the purchase of land, erecting stables, barns and other buildings, which amounted to twenty thousand dollars. At this date two properties suitable for the purpose were on the market for sale; one belonging to Owen Connolly, consisting of 38 acres; the other 22 acres owned by Mr. Beasley, (at that time residing in England), his agent here

being Mr. George Peake. It was unanimously agreed, that the Beasley property was the most desirable. Mr. F. L. Hazard (now Judge Hazard), Mr. R. R. Fitzgerald (late Judge Fitzgerald) and the late Mr. Patrick Blake, were appointed a committee, with instructions to purchase the Beasley land at the best possible price. Acting on the presumption, that this property could be bought, a stock list was opened, and the following before leaving the meeting subscribed two hundred dollars each: Charles C. Gardiner, F. L. Hazard, Benjamin Rogers, Patrick Blake, J. M. Sutherland, R. R. Fitzgerald, George E. Jones, A. N. Large, W. A. Weeks, J. B. MacDonald and John Newson. Messrs Gardiner and Sutherland were appointed a committee to solicit stock subscriptions. This they were successful in doing, the total collected and reported at a subsequent meeting held October 15th amounted to nineteen thousand dollars. At this meeting sixty men were present, representing farming, professions and commerce. A provisional committee was appointed, to assume the full management of the affairs, and take necessary steps to procure letters of incorporation under the Prince Edward Island Joint Stock Companies Act. This having been accomplished, tenders for stumping, clearing land and laying out grounds were called for. On January 8th, 1889 tenders for lumber to be used for fencing were asked. In the month of May the directors voted fifty dollars towards paying Mr. Chappell's (architect) expenses to the United States to visit exhibition buildings, with a view to preparing plans. On December 4th, 1889, tenders for constructing the industrial building were called for. Plans and specifications were made by Chappell and Phillips, January 11th, 1890, six contractors sent in their tenders, Schurman, Clark and Co. being lowest was accepted. On March 10th, tenders for stables, barns, etc., were received from five contractors, Parkman and Crabbe being lowest were awarded the contract.

WHAT HAS THE FAIR DONE FOR LIVE STOCK?

Mr. Simpson, continuing his address said "I venture the assertion without fear of contradiction that the fairs of the North American Continent have done more for the improvement of live stock in the last quarter of a century than the agricultural colleges or any other agency. I say this because it is my further opinion that the comparison of the stock which the average live stock breeder has seen at a fair, with his own livestock at home, has given him a greater desire for improvement in his herd than what the agricultural colleges have to say, or what the agricultural press have to say. I do not mean in making this assertion, to belittle the influence of the agricultural college or press, for I believe they have both had a great part in the improvement of live stock. I do feel, however, that much of the work of the agricultural college would have been lost had not the fair furnished the agency for showing the scientific improvement in breeding which they have worked out. I am a great admirer and believer in our agricultural college education. I have been a very close student of our agricultural live stock papers. I value their opinion very highly, but I do not want the agricultural college and press to take full credit for the live stock improvement, when I know what the fairs have done.

NOVA SCOTIA DEBARS US

The question naturally arises in our mind, what advantage has all this expenditure been to this Province and especially to those engaged in agricultural pursuits? One answer to that question should suffice any ordinary intelligent person. Previous to the year 1890, some of our Island exhibitors of live stock and other farm products made their yearly visit to the Nova Scotia Exhibition, returning home joyfully, with red, white and blue prize cards, and prize money in their pockets. Nova Scotia woke up to the fact that it was a one-sided arrangement, too much in favour of this province. Our exhibition being only a provincial affair, Nova Scotia farmers were debarred from exhibiting. Early in the year 1890, our directors received a letter from the government of Nova Scotia stating they had decided to exclude our exhibitors from exhibiting at any future exhibitions in Nova Scotia, unless we held exhibitions open to them. The directors after discussing the matter, felt that in the interest of the farming population of this province a Maritime Exhibition should be held. Accordingly arrangements were made to hold the first Inter-Provincial Exhibition from 24th September to 28th inclusive. Later on we opened our exhibition to all Canada, by doing this, we gave the key of entrance and privilege of exhibiting at all the principal exhibitions in the Dominion. Many have taken advantage of this opportunity, some returned home from the largest Live Stock Exhibition in Canada bringing with them red, blue, white and champion ribbons. Now our exhibition is known throughout Canada and recognized by the Federal Government Agricultural Department as a class 'A' exhibition.

IT HAS BEEN SAID

Agriculture is the foundation of all prosperity, and live stock is the foundation of agriculture, and a willing worker and a kind heart are the foundation of good live stock.

MR. J. C. SIMPSON

This name is probably familiar to some of our people who visit exhibitions in other parts of Canada; he is well known as an expert exhibitor, and manager, having made it almost

a life study, not only in the United States but also in Canada. As to the value of exhibitions, I quote from his address which he delivered before the Canadian Association of Exhibitions:

FUNCTION OF THE FAIR

"It is the function of a fair or exposition to assemble exhibits for the purpose of comparison. From time immemorial progress has been made by comparison. Comparison is one of the greatest words in the English language, and no language exists without it, or a word which expresses a like meaning.

LATE PRESIDENT MCKINLEY

In making a public address at the Buffalo Exposition, said that "fairs and expositions are the timekeepers which mark the progress of states and nations. They record the state's advancement, they stimulate the energy, enterprise and intellect of the people, and quicken human genius. They go into the home. They broaden and brighten the daily life of the people. They open mighty storehouses of information to the student. A comparison of ideas and products is educational and interest the hand and brain of men."

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Mr. Simpson went on to say: "I have before me, a report containing certain data, which I will read of three of the larger fairs in Canada and three in the United States. This is the progress shown from the year 1900 to 1920. Attendance percentage of increase 314. Outside gate increase 324. All receipts increase 515. Paid in premium increase 255. Value of property 237 increase. Provincial or state aid percentage of increase 340.

"I am a firm believer in the good old saying 'that a good animal never has for its owner a poor farmer, or that a poor animal never has for its owner long, a good farmer.' Mr. Simpson said he was greatly interested in the Boys and Girls clubs. A girl in New England started in club work raising asters. She was very successful. She branched out a little and went into poultry. Then she bought a jersey cow and paid \$150 for that cow. She has now a herd of 27 pure bred jersey cattle.

Mr. Arkell, the farmer's friend, when speaking at the same conference and on the same subject (boys and girls clubs) said: "Last year there were two girls from Nova Scotia, who made such a record for themselves, that I promised to go to their district in Cape Breton and see them on their own farms." Hon. W. R. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture, is another gentleman well known in this Province. He also addressed the conference, and in his remarks, said: "Exhibitions are growing rapidly. Associations prove a very important factor in developing agriculture, greater than I have ever conceived of, and that is saying something, because I always recognized that they were an important factor."

1890 Vs. 1928

We have been told that progress has been made by comparison. Let us compare the entries made the first three years of our exhibition with entries for the year 1928. In the year 1890, the number of entries was 1842; year 1891, 2697. For these two years I have failed to find the items of entries. The following however are the entries for year 1928: Horses, 193; cattle, 132; sheep, 140; pigs, 85; poultry, 187. Total of animals 737.

PRINCE EDWARD ST. PATRICK'S DAY SPECIAL MON.-TUES. MAR. 18-19 THE BENEVOLENT IRISH SOCIETY PRESENTS IRISH EYES A THREE ACT COMEDY DRAMA OF OLD IRELAND AND MODERN NEW YORK UNDER DIRECTION OF MR. J. AUSTIN TRAINOR

Irish Songs Irish Music Dancing EVENINGS ONLY \$15 35c - 50c - 75c. NO TAX Seats Now on Sale At Box Office SPLENDID CAST OF LOCAL TALENT

PRINCE EDWARD TODAY WILLIAM HAINES in "WEST POINT" STORY OF BREEZY YOUTH - LAUGHS - THRILLS ALSO COMEDY "HIGH SPIRIT 8" AND "TIGER'S SHADOW"

CAPITOL MONDAY TUES. WED. SHOW GIRL GIRLS, NIGHT CLUBS, BACK-STAGE LIFE, B KQUADWAY AND THE BUTTERFLIES OF MANHATTAN. ALLICE WHITE Turns Broadway's million mazes onto the inner workings of the show game. Rips the ribbon of the private love letters of a red hot momma who burned her way from scene to star.

CAPITOL TODAY ONLY KEN MAYNARD in "The Phantom City" HIS LATEST THRILLER - ACTION - LAUGHS ALSO "CAMPUS VAMP" AND "EAGLE OF THE NIGHT"

STRAND MONDAY And Tues. Conrad Nagel AND June Collyer WINE, WOMEN AND SONG IN A JAZZ-MAD AGE red wine A sparkling comedy with a kick. It's an original story of modern life showing the fast country club set with both their indoor and outdoor sports.

PRINCE EDWARD MOTHER KNOWS BEST WEDNESDAY THURSDAY

Our entries last year for cattle alone were 819, or 82 over and above the combined animals of 1893. Other entries for 1893 were: Dairy products, 101; grain and seeds, 130; roots and vegetables, 482; fruit, 414; flowers, 380; women's industrial work, 178; art, 90; industrial, 141; miscellaneous, 52. Total 1978. Combined entries, animals and products, 2715. For 1928: Horses, 186; cattle, 189; sheep, 174; swine, 93; poultry, 385; total of animals 1637. Other entries for 1928: Grain and seeds, 20; potatoes, 49; roots and vegetables, 263; fruit, 292; art, 174; plants and flowers, 555; women's hooked mats, woolens and fancy work, 873; house-keeping, 491; dairy, 56; school work, 21; miscellaneous, 16. Total, 2550. Combined entries, 4187.

Although we had 93 more entries for horses last year than we had in 1927, we are still far behind the number we should have, we need your co-operation and trust before the next Exhibition an effort will be made to increase entries in this class; also in fruit, grain and seeds, roots and vegetables and dairying.

With reference to fruit, we had 185 fewer entries in 1928 than we had in 1927. We found when it was too late, that some of our people who usually compete in this class were under the impression that no award would be given unless the fruit was matured. Now that is not expected in the month of August. All we want you to do is to exhibit the best you have and it will be judged according to the season. We want everyone who grows plums, apples or any other variety to compete. If time won't permit you to select the best from your orchard, get your good wife, son, or daughter, to take an interest in the exhibition by sending at least one selection. The same applies to roots and vegetables. Awards in both classes will be higher this year. We want our public schools to take more interest in the exhibition than they have done in the past. Last year we offered to pupils \$54.00 in prizes and only paid out \$11.75, the balance, \$42.25 we would gladly have distributed among boys and girls, but they failed to make entries. Over and above the \$54.00, we gave \$25.00 in prizes to girls under fifteen years for sewing and knitting work. We are pleased to say this amount was competed for.

In conclusion we hope by co-operating more closely with farmers associations and others, the exhibition as one of the most important educational institutions of this, the Garden of the Gulf, and Province of Prince Edward Island, it will continue to flourish to a greater degree than it has in the past.

NO FOUNDATION FOR RUMOR

The Guardian was in receipt of a letter from Halifax requesting verification of a rumor that Archbishop O'Brien was retiring and that Rev. Monsignor Maurice Macdonald, St. Dunstan's Cathedral, was to succeed him to become coadjutor Bishop. Inquiry elicited the information that the report was groundless so far as Monsignor Macdonald was concerned.

MARSHFIELD - DUNSTAFNAGE AND YORK - SERVICES will be held in the United Churches next Sunday as follows: Central Church, Marshfield, Dunstafnage, 11 a. m. In connection with Maritime C. G. I. T. week, a special service will be held in York Church, 7 p. m. All are invited. Rev. F. E. Boothroyd.

Central Guardian

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HOCKEY MATCH and Relay Race, W. K. S. vs. P. W. C. Tuesday evening, March 19th. 7037-3-16-11

PRESBYTERIAN SERVICES as follows for March 17th: Harrington at 11 a. m., Marshall at 7 p. m. M. E. Gange, Pastor.

ISLANDER DEAD.—News was received at his old home in Plaquid of the death in Waterford, Connecticut, on March 15 of Allan J. MacDonald, son of the late John A. MacDonald. Mr. MacDonald was 67 years of age.

POLICE COURT.—At the police court yesterday, two prohibition cases appeared. One defendant was awarded \$200.00 or three months; the other received six months in jail. A man charged with vagrancy and non-support of wife and family was given thirty days.

REV. A. J. VINCENT in the Baptist Church tomorrow morning will speak on "Inspired Vision of Jesus." The evening sermon will be "The Golden Text of the Bible." There will be, as usual, splendid music led by the fine choir of the Baptist Church.

FORMER ISLANDER PASSES AWAY.—The death occurred at Detroit, Mich., on the morning of March 5th, after a lingering illness of Mrs. Herbert H. Brown, leaving a sorrowing husband, one son, Fred, two daughters, Mrs. Gordon Saunders and Mrs. Garfield Saunders, and one sister, Miss May Passmore, all of Detroit. Burial was in Clinton Grove Cemetery. Patriot please copy.

ON ST. PATRICK DAY

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Michael started slightly then looked inquiringly "An' is tomorrow the blessed Saint's own Day?" he questioned "I was a father forgetting, an' me thinking that so long as me heart bats I'd never forget," he continued mournfully and Father Maloney listened sympathetically, understandingly, as Michael went on: "Ye see yer Riv'nce it was the Saint's day at a Sunday, the Colleen was born an' it was on the Saint's day tho' not at a Sunday that Maggie went home—an' me aither forgetting!"

"Ye didn't know Maggie Yer Riv'nce?" and as Father Maloney shook his head Michael continued reminiscently, "A wonderful woman! Eyes as blue as the corn flower that blooms in Ould Oireland, hair like the finest aye gould, and the skin as yer like velvet an' yer Riv'nce to hear her w' yer harp would draw tears from yer 'gin ye had a heart like velvet an' yer Riv'nce to Maggie herself but—"

"Savin' yer Riv'nce's pardon," interrupted Nora, who had been an attentive listener and now endeavored to turn her father's attention from the old days. "Shure an' that's not what Tim O'Dowd says. When the wee bit gossamer av a pig broke sty, yerest an' I was all for making him go in the hole he came out av an' Tim was for catchin' him an' tollin' him over the sty an' we had words. An' its Doyle ye are by name," says Tim. "An' its Doyle ye are by name," a chip of the Ould block," and Nora smiled mischievously at her father.

"An' pevhat knows Tim O'Dowd av the Doyle's?" answered Michael rather spiritively. "Maybe Tim would learn more about them. Eh, Miss Nora," suggested Father Maloney and Nora's cheeks flamed the color of the sunset.

"Shure an' I'm not saying but Tim's the good neighbor, w' him working this farm on shares an' gettin' the firewood an' a' Indale, there's none better," said Michael. "Aye none better" agreed Father Maloney as he rose to go. "I shall run in soon again," he promised at parting.

After Father Maloney's departure, Nora busied herself with the tea things, and her father sat silently watching her. Presently he spoke, "I heard yer mother playing this day—twicet was. Did ye hear her darlin'?" But Nora's earth dulled ears could not commune with angels. She shook her head. "Will ye hand me the fiddle?" he asked. He took it eagerly, tightened the strings, tuning it with the touch of a master then began to play—slowly. It was a tune Nora had not heard in years—not since her mother's death. She had often heard her parents play it exquisitely together in the days long ago. A beautiful Irish folk song it was—a sweet intriguing melody. It made her think of rippling water, and green velvet grass, birds twittering and singing and wee children

On St. Patrick Day

Continued from page 5

playing joyously about. It held hope and cheer and the warmth of summer in its notes. Then it changed to a sad strain making her feel so lonely, so terribly hopelessly alone tears welled up in her eyes. And then it ended, and he struck a few notes of the "Wearing of the Green" but the effort was too much for him and the bow fell from his grasp.

"It's no use darlin'," he cried despairingly. "I canna' play the ould songs."

"It's tired ye are Daddy and right thoughtless I was to allow ye to play so long," she answered lovingly "a cup o' tay will bring strength to yer heart. Then its off to bed w' ye Daddy." And when she had given him his "bite of supper" she took him in through "the room" to the bedroom where she made him comfortable for the night. After she had taken her own tea, she ran upstairs to her room under the eaves, to don a clean dress. By the light of the oil lamp, she caught her reflection in the mirror on the wall. Her birthday tomorrow? She counted the years since her mother died. Could it be that tomorrow she would be twenty-five? Truly she was "getting along!" "Heart-whole" she smiled to herself in the glass—but no—she wasn't exactly that way for there was Tim—big handsome Tim O'Dowd with his merry infectious laughter and that red head of his and the love light in his eyes.

Aye, always there was Tim to be thought of. From where she stood she could see Tim's house and barn with the sty just back of it, all girded about by a white picket fence. She saw a thin spiral of grey smoke from the chimney ascend heavenward reminding her of incense burning. Could it be incense for her? Past Tim's was the church, with its gleaming white spire and its cross in the very clouds, it seemed. The parochial house came next, the frost on its roof scintillating as with myriads of diamonds. And away over, the lights of the village twinkled brightly, rivaling the stars in their brilliancy. Ang all was calm and peaceful, guarded by a new moon, which was climbing high in the heavens.

A hope and a peace she had not known since her father had taken the bad turn, stole into her heart, and up and up in the ether, blue, seeking to keep trust with his "Maggie darlin'" on St. Patrick's Day—in the morning.

And then he was gone. She watched him over the moonlit fields to his own door. Later she slept, to dream of that red head of his and the compelling lovelight in his eyes. She was up with the sun, working noiselessly that she might not disturb her daddy, and was much surprised when she heard Michael call to her.

She halted at the bed room door. There was such a celestial expression on his face that involuntarily she waited. "Nora, darlin', d'ye hear? The lilt o' the harp—yer mother playin'—whist Colleen!" and he listened eagerly, intently. "Tis the "Wearing of the Green"—Oh, Maggie, acushla—I hear ye—I'm coming—I'm coming," he whispered and with a sweet smile, Michael Doyle's spirit went out and up and up in the ether, blue, seeking to keep trust with his "Maggie darlin'" on St. Patrick's Day—in the morning.

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