

Royalty Entertained at Calgary by "Royal Winter Stampede"

By LORNE STOUT, Calgary, Alta.

SOUTHERN Alberta carved itself a special niche in the Canadian Tour of Princess Elizabeth and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh with the first, and what may be the world's only Royal Winter Stampede. It was a 90 minute edition of the famed Calgary Stampede, dropped out of the heat and sunshine of July into a swirling snow-storm of October 18th. But if the heat of summer was missing, there was no lack evident in the traditional heat of competition for which the great Calgary Stampede is world renowned.

The ranch hands or cowboys rode, roped and decorated with a daring and dash that in some instances they could only feel sorry they hadn't accomplished in the heat of competition last July. And it was all done under the grimmest circumstances under which a rider ever raked a bronk, or threw a loop. Sixteen above, a bitter southeast wind, and swirling snow, while underfoot, efforts of groundsmen to keep the arena in condition had left an infield covered with icy hard mudballs the size of baseballs. It was treacherous footing for both men and animals, but the show went on.

The Royal couple, warmly wrapped in trapper point and electric blankets were possible the only two of the 20,000 or more spectators who even approached comfort. Prince Philip particularly seemed to enjoy the thrilling events — and was quick to get his Yellow-gloved hands out from under the blankets to applaud every performance in the centre-field. Possibly not as demonstrative, Princess Elizabeth appeared to take a keen interest in all that transpired, and later, while thousands of children staged a sing-song while the infield was cleared for the final event — the chuck wagon races, she couldn't resist stealing many a glance over her shoulder to be sure nothing of the Stampede was missed.

While the infield events were underway, The Princess and the Duke had the finer points explained to them by authorities in the various competitions. In addition to Calgary Stampede President Jim Cross and Vice-President George Edworthy five present and former cowboy champions took their turns answering questions and giving information to the Royal couple. Herman Linder, former world all-around cowboy champion of many years, outlined the rodeo events generally, while Decorating Champion Tom Duce, also of Cardston covered the Steer Decorating, Bill Mounkes of Okotoks explained the difficulties of calf roping, Reg Kessler of Rosemary, another all-around winner and rider, answered their questions on Bronk and bareback riding, and Arena Director Dick Cosgrave managed to find a few moments to tell them what to expect during the running of the chuck wagon race. Either he overlooked explaining a tradition, or as the prerogative of Royalty, the Prince and Princess stayed snuggled under their blankets while the race was underway and when Ron Glass of Red Deer drove his Phelan outfit down the homestretch the winners.

The Princess in thanking Calgary for the Royal Winter Stampede, said it was an event she and her husband would

never forget. Both expressed a wish to return and see the Calgary Stampede under more favorable weather conditions.

Undoubtedly the Royal Winter Stampede will be long in the memory of all those who took part or saw the show. The cowboys may well coin a phrase to describe the worst weather "As cold as the Royal Stampede" or they may even, in days to come after a particularly good ride, josh the contestant with the query "Think you're riding for the Princess?"

Certainly, all taking part did themselves proud. One cowboy looped and tied his calf in nineteen and a fraction seconds — and that would have won him money last Summer at Calgary. Another decorated a steer in eight seconds. There was no scoring on the saddle bronk and bareback riders, but the way they raked and rode it could have been for the Summer championships on Saturday afternoon.

Many and many a time in the years to come, whenever cowboys gather — there will be tales told — "I remember back at the Royal Winter Stampede—".

There will never be another.

"Can-Pack" System of Rail-Dressing Beef

During the past four years a system of beef dressing has been evolved in the plants of Canada Packers Limited which may well revolutionize one of the most important of all Packing House operations.

Under old, or conventional methods, cattle, after stunning and bleeding, were dropped to the floor where hides were removed and other operations performed by butchers working in stooped and uncomfortable positions. The work was laborious and a frequent source of complaint amongst Packing House Workmen.

The new method, known as the "Can Pack" System, provides for performance of all operations with the carcasses suspended from moving rails. Most of the manual operations have been replaced by automatic and semi-automatic machines. Platforms, which can be quickly raised or lowered pneumatically, now permit the operators to maintain normal, upright posture.

The heart of the new "Can Pack" System is the hide puller, which by use of adjustable arms, removes the hide merely by the operation of a series of levers, thus eliminating the traditional drudgery of cattle skinning.

The new system originated from a chance suggestion by a workman to the Superintendent of Canada Packers Packing Plant in St. Boniface, Man. The Superintendent, L. T. Force, and Plant Manager, Joseph Harris, saw possibilities in the proposal and, with the assistance of the working force, from whom many of the most useful suggestions came, introduced one labor-saving device after another, with the present practical system as the result. The system is now installed and working successfully in the Company's Plants in Toronto and Montreal as well as at Winnipeg. It materially improves the appearance of dressed beef and almost eliminates hide damage.

The "Can-Pack" System of rail dressing beef has attracted such wide attention in U.S.A. as well as in Canada that Mr. Force was invited to describe it in detail at the annual meeting of the American Meat Institute in Chicago, Ill.,

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in September. To illustrate Mr. Force's talk, the Company prepared a 25-minute technicolor documentary film, which was shown in Chicago for the first time on September 22nd.

SPROUTED AND FROZEN GRAIN FOR LIVESTOCK

Contrary to the belief of some, frozen and sprouted grains are not poisonous to livestock, according to Dr. F. Whiting, livestock nutrition specialist of the Dominion Experimental Station at Lethbridge, Alta. Wheat, whether sprouted frozen or normal, is a very heavy feed, and livestock must be accustomed to it gradually.

The feed value of frozen or sprouted grain will vary with its quality; slightly frozen or slightly sprouted grain will be equal in feed value to normal grain for all classes of livestock. Grain, badly frozen or sprouted will have lighter bushel weight and a higher proportion of fibre. It will still make good feed for sheep and cattle, but will be less valuable for poultry and swine.

Dr. Whiting warns against feeding moldy or heated grain or hay to livestock. Most molds that grow in hay that has been put in the stack before being properly dried, or grain that has been rained on in the swath or threshed before dry, are not harmful. Some are, however, and it is impossible to know by its appearance whether or not moldy feed is harmful. If slightly moldy feed has to be fed it should be given to the stock in such a way that they can take out the good hay and leave the badly moulded parts; it should never be put through a feed chopper since stock are not then able to sort it out.

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