

Stampede Managers and Contestants Meet

By LORNE STOUT, Calgary, Alta.

THE Cowboys and Canadian Stampede Manager's Associations held their annual meeting in Calgary in an atmosphere of cordiality marking a high in relations between the C.S.M.A. and the Cowboy's Protective Association. There was none of the wrangling that has marked some sessions in the past, but then there were no major rule changes advanced by either side. Each had one major concern — money. For the C.P.A. it hinges on the claims and annual dues. During the past summer the C.P.A. faced a sharp increase in claims on the injury fund, and payments had depleted the treasury. There was a suspicion that in at least a few cases the injury for which claims were filed had occurred, before and not during events in which the contestant took part and officials of the organization intend to check closely in the future into claims.

For the Stampede Managers, the problem was increasing costs, against admission charges that have remained fairly constant. Many Canadian Shows it was felt were trying to treat the paying customers too gently for their own good, while increasing purses for the rodeo events and other attractions. A survey of rodeo admissions charged across the United States had shown the average general admission was \$1.32, Reserve seats \$3.49 Box seats \$3.75, while at most Canadian rodeos the admission charge is half or less of the gate fee in the United States.

On the question of rule changes for 1952, the Managers had one suggestion, the elimination of draggy contesting in the closing rounds of the steer decorating or Bulldogging, and in the calf roping. In each case the trouble was blamed on the same situation, some contestants having recorded a fast time, others were far from eager to make a dive for their steer, or tie a second loop at a calf, when there was no possibility of winning prize money either in the Go-round or in the finals. Dick Cosgrave, Arena Director for the Calgary Stampede said the condition prevailed at Calgary equally as much as at the smaller shows. The Managers proposed, and officials of the C.P.A. agreed that when, in the opinion of the judges, a contestant failed to make an honest effort, he would be disqualified in the show from that point on. It would not affect prize monies already won during the Show, but any contestant disqualified, would be banned from the same Show the following year, in all events.

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In the riding events, contestants injured, sick or forced to leave, must arrange for any pay out of their own pocket for a substitute rider to take out their stock.

The Managers, agreed in the case of overlapping shows that every possible effort would be made to accommodate contestants who wished to compete at both shows, by arranging for stock so the cowboy would not miss stock at either show, if notified that the contestant wished to over-lap six hours prior to the closing of entries at each show.

Other resolutions considered and approved at the C.P.A. annual meeting stressed the importance to Stampede Managers to have their dates and prize lists filed with the C.P.A. Secretary for the Rodeo Directory as early as possible, to make the list as complete as possible for both contestants and the public.

The C.P.A. decided to discontinue accepting amateur members in the Association, and in future, all C.P.A. members are barred from contesting in the Novice Bronk riding event at the Calgary Stampede.

In future, re-rides will be allowed only when a horse falls, fouls in the chute, flat-runs off or refuses to buck. However, in case of breakage of a contestant's equipment while competing, he will be entitled, at the discretion of the judges to a re-ride or stock return.

A C.P.A. representative, or approved judges must be present when bucking stock is drawn. And all horses and all contestants are to be drawn at the same time for each complete go-round, with surplus horses to be used for re-rides or substitute, in the event a horse drawn is injured.

The C.P.A. also voted in connection with Chuck Wagon races, in the event of average time being awarded by the judges, the wagon fouled shall receive the average running time of the HEAT in which the foul occurred, PLUS the penalties incurred by the fouled wagon. No day money can be won on average time. All wagons must complete the race if at all possible.

Chuck Wagons cannot work any shows other than those with C.P.A. approval, and must be advertised as C.P.A. approved 30 days in advance of the race.

Directors of the C.S.M.A. from all sections reported a successful year in 1951, although a few shows had encountered difficulties, sometimes due to rain, at other times due to conflicting dates. The issue of dates has always been bothersome and this year it appeared to be hit-

ting hardest at the Southern Alberta Rodeo Circuit, with a conflict over the first of July between High River, Claresholm, Macleod and Raymond.

Dates for Rodeos already set and agreed to at the annual meeting included Taber, May 23-24; Edmonton, June 17-21; Lethbridge, June 23-25, with just a doubt that Lethbridge would have a rodeo in conjunction with the annual agricultural Fair. Hand Hills June 11th; Hardisty, June 13-14; Ponoka, June 30-July 1-2; Stettler, July 2-3; Claresholm-Macleod (at Claresholm) June 30, July 1; Coleman, July 4-5; Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, July 7-12; Cardston, July 15-16; Benalto, July 16-17; Medicine Hat, July 17-18-19 and Swift Current, July 1-2.

Herman Linder of Cardston was re-elected President of the Canadian Stampede Manager's Association. Vice-Presidents are Dick Scholten of Medicine Hat for southern Alberta, Vic Stuckey of Stettler for Northern Alberta, Irving Hansen of Swift Current for Saskatchewan. Directors are Pete Guenard of Hardisty and Lou Bradley for Alberta; Gerald Myers, Moose Jaw and Ralph DesBrisay of Swift Current for Saskatchewan. Irvan Parsons of Calgary is Secretary. A Vice-President and Directors for British Columbia were not named, as no B.C. delegates were able to attend the annual meeting, although there are a number of Rodeos held in B.C. which are members of the Association in good standing.

Sparking the annual meetings, the annual Cowboy Banquet and Dance was attended by more than four hundred. Feature of the evening was the presentation of prizes to the Champions of the various events for 1951. Complete list of Champions and standings of top contestants, as listed by the C.P.A. were published in the November issue of Canadian Cattlemen.

FOR 1952

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