

The Ontario Agricultural College, Its Work and Prospects.

Owing to the disturbance and changes caused by the "Findings" of the Royal Commission, some have been more or less anxious about the effects upon the attendance next term. We are, however, pleased to learn that the prospects for a full attendance on the 2nd October are all that could be desired. The province has confidence in the management; and, although there may be trouble occasionally, as in other colleges, the work of the institution goes on increasing in efficiency from year to year. There is no doubt that the Ontario Agricultural College at this hour is one of the strongest and best managed colleges on this continent. There is not another purely agricultural college anywhere to compare with it. The equipment in every department has been vastly improved within the last few years; and the opportunities now offered within the halls of this institution for a sufficiently broad and thoroughly practical education are all that can be desired.

Some are apt to forget the great work which this institution is doing for the farmers, and indirectly for other classes of people, throughout the province. It is not only educating young men for farm life and preparing some of them for prominent positions in connection with the agricultural interests of the country, but is doing a large amount of special work which is of great importance and should not be overlooked.

The large number of experiments conducted annually throughout the province by ex-students and other farmers are under the control and direction of Mr. Zavitz, the College Experimentalist.

The splendid series of winter meetings held by the Farmers' Institutes all over Ontario have been heretofore systematically mapped out by President Mills, and the college staff has done yeoman service in association with local talent at those gatherings. The travelling dairies are sent out from the college, and the duty of arranging for their meetings throughout the season also devolves upon the president of the college. The dairy school, begun last winter, is now one of the most popular and useful departments of the institution. Already, we understand, as many as 120 have applied for the next session of this special course, to commence on the 15th January and continue till the 15th March. Contracts for the new building have been let. And last, but not least, the summer school for teachers, which began last summer, and was in every sense a marked success. The bulletins sent out from the college are useful through the practical information which they contain, and in stimulating more systematic habits of observation and work.

As we understand it, the design of the Government and the Provincial Minister of Agriculture is to make this school and farm serve the farmers of Ontario in as practical a manner as possible. What has been stated indicates that it is being kept abreast of the times.

For the coming term every department will be well manned. Experience has shown that a certain amount of training in "English Subjects" is absolutely necessary, but this is only a secondary part of the business of the institution in our judgment. For the future the purpose of the Minister is to make a more special feature of practical instruction in the stables and on the farm, making this go hand-in-hand with the teachings of the lecture room.

The Ontario Fat Stock Show.

The above exhibition, to be held in Guelph on Wednesday and Thursday, December 6th and 7th next, promises to be the best winter show ever conducted on this continent. It will be under the combined auspices of the Dominion Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association, the Provincial Agriculture and Arts Association, and the Guelph Fat Stock Club. All the foremost breeders of Canada are expected to attend. The prizes for the cattle classes are exceedingly liberal, and \$1,750 cash is offered in prizes in the sheep and swine department alone, besides valuable "specials." There is ample time after the Columbian and Canadian Exhibitions to prepare for the show at Guelph, and our breeders will put their "best foot" forward on that occasion. For prize lists and entry blanks, apply to Henry Wade, corner Queen and Yonge streets, Toronto; Jas. Russell, President Sheep Breeders' Association, Richmond Hill, Ont.; J. C. Snell, President Swine Breeders' Association, Edmonton, Ont.; or F. W. Hodson, Secretary Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations, London.

The annual agricultural and live stock returns, issued by the Board of Agriculture, indicate that in Great Britain farming is becoming less and less a national industry.

The Montreal Exhibition.

The Third Annual Provincial Exhibition at Montreal, Que., which opened on the 4th of September and continued during the whole of that week, was hardly up to its predecessors; a great many adverse conditions united to discourage the managers. In the first place, a mistake was made in placing the date too early in the season, for on account of the wet weather the harvest was not over, and no farmer will leave his crop in the field to attend an exhibition, however good. The competition from Sherbrooke, Toronto and several local shows was also very strong. Many of the best breeders of the Eastern Townships, who always show in Montreal, would not forsake their own show, and their absence weakened the stock exhibit considerably. Many of our best known breeders were not to be seen at all, while others had sent their best stock to Chicago. Unfavorable weather during exhibition week also lessened the attendance. Still, in spite of all drawbacks, the townspeople turned out in full force, and it is to be hoped that the Exhibition Company will come out on the right side of the balance sheet.

We would heartily commend the firm stand which the directors have taken in not allowing any gambling concerns to operate on their grounds, and hope that exhibitions further west will follow this good example and not be tempted by any fee, however large, to license such persons.

A very interesting object lesson was the practical filling of a silo. Here the whole process could be seen, including the cutting of the corn with a tread-power ensilage cutter and elevating it into the silo.

The exhibit of butter, cheese and dairy utensils was good, and was made doubly interesting from the fact that there was a regular working dairy, where the separation of the cream from the milk and the manufacture of butter could be seen, as performed by different machines.

The exhibit in the Horticultural Hall was under the management of the Montreal Horticultural Society and the Quebec Fruit Growers' Association, who deserve much credit for the tastefully arranged exhibit of fruit, flowers, plants, etc.

HORSES.

The entries of horses were not nearly as numerous as they were last year.

In *Hunters and Saddle Horses*, T. D. Buzzell & Co., Montreal, R. J. Cogliin, Montreal, and Osborne & Hardy, Montreal, were the chief exhibitors, and carried off the largest number of prizes.

In *Roadsters*, Jas. McVey had a fine lot, among them the three-year-old Barnum, who carried off premier honors in his class. Mr. V. Roy showed a number of capital roadsters. W. H. Trainer, Rockburn, Que., won a medal with his two-year-old filly Amy B., besides a number of firsts and seconds. The well-known firm of Graham Bros., of Claremont, exhibited representatives from their stud, and obtained most of the honors in Hackneys, winning first in the stallion class with Seagull.

Clydesdales.—In this class Graham Bros. also obtained the pick of the prizes, including the three medals offered for best stallion, best mare, and for mare and two of her progeny. Other successful exhibitors in this class were W. H. Craig, J. P. Davies, Thos. Irving and Thos. Cairns.

CATTLE.

There were not as many cattle on exhibition as last year, though some of the breeds were out in larger numbers than ever before. The falling-off was in the beefing breeds.

Ayrshires.—Some of the most noted Ayrshire herds being located in the vicinity of Montreal, they were out in larger numbers than any other breed. In all, there were twenty-three different herds represented, the largest exhibitors being: Jas. Drummond, Petite Cote, who showed a herd of 19 head; D. McLachlan, Petite Cote, with 23; and Jas. Johnston, Montreal, with a number just lately out of quarantine. Other exhibitors were: Jas. Cottingham, Ormston; Thos. Irving, Logan Farm; J. L. Wilson, Alexandria; D. McFarlane, Petite Cote, and others. D. McLachlan received medal for herd, and first for bull two years old. Jas. Drummond received medal for bull any age, and first for bull three years old, bull calf, and cow of any age. J. Johnston obtained first for bull one year old.

Guernseys.—This breed was more numerous than at any previous exhibition. The two largest herds were those owned by J. N. Greenshields, Danville, Que., and W. H. & C. H. McNish, Lyn, Ont. Other specimens were shown by Saul Seymour and the Trappist Fathers, Oka. J. N. Greenshields received medal for herd, medal for bull any age, and first prizes for bull calf, cow any age, and yearling bull. Messrs. McNish secured first for heifer, first and second for heifer calf, and several other prizes.

Jerseys.—In this breed the principal exhibitors were Dawes & Co., Lachine; H. A. Ekers, Montreal; C. H. Levey, Catarqui, and the Trappist Fathers, Oka. Dawes & Co. captured the medal for herd and medal for bull any age. H. A. Ekers obtained medal for best female and second on herd.

Holsteins. The "Hollanders" were well to the front in both numbers and quality, being chiefly represented by the herds of McDuffee & Butters, Stanstead, Que.; Smith Bros., Churchville, Ont., and J. Fletcher, Oxford Mills. McDuffee & Butters secured medal for bull of any age; also medal for herd and several other prizes. The success of this

new firm should be very encouraging to them. Smith Bros. secured medal for best female, first on year-old heifer and cow, and second on herd. J. Fletcher obtained first on yearling bull and two-year-old heifer, and a number of other prizes.

There was a large increase in the number of registered "Canadian cattle" at this exhibition, which indicates that they are growing in favor in Quebec, to which they seem peculiarly adapted.

Shorthorns. This favorite breed was not up to the usual standard in numbers. J. B. Watt secured the greater number of firsts, obtaining medal for herd and first for bull of any age. H. I. Elliott secured first for his two-year-old heifer and second for herd. R. R. Sangster, Lancaster, J. Oke & Sons, and D. Brims also show a number of good animals.

Galloways. In this class all the first and second prizes were taken by the veteran Galloway breeder, D. McCrae, Guelph. No Polled-Angus were shown.

Herefords.—F. A. Fleming secured the lion's share of the prizes. Dawes & Co. were also successful in winning a number.

Fat Cattle.—A. Armstrong, Fergus, and Messrs. Oke & Sons showed a number of good animals, A. Armstrong winning first for herd of fifteen export cattle.

SHEEP.

In sheep the exhibit was well up to the mark in most of the classes.

Cotswolds.—In this class the bulk of the prizes fell to R. Miller, Brougham. For flock bred and owned in Quebec, D. Turanne, L'Ermite, Que., was first, with A. Dennis second.

Leicesters.—In this breed John Kelly, Shakespeare, won all the firsts. Quebec exhibitors were R. Allen, Melburne, J. & D. Pringle, Huntington, M. Baxter, Georgetown. For pen owned in Quebec, Robert Allen secured first, and J. & D. Pringle second.

Lincolns.—In Lincolns W. Oliver, Avonbank, Ont., secured all the firsts. A. Rock, St. Norbert, secured a number of prizes.

Southdowns.—R. Shaw & Sons won all the best prizes.

Merinos.—In this class R. Shaw & Sons were the only exhibitors.

Shropshires.—In Shrops the western breeders met opposition from J. N. Greenshields, Danville, Que., who was very successful with his flock, winning, among other prizes, first on two-shear ram, shearing ram and ram lamb. Alf. Brown, Bethel, Ont., secured first for pen, and a number of other prizes.

Oxfords.—R. Gilmore & Co., Huntington, Que., owned all the Oxfords on the grounds.

Hampshires.—John Kelly, Shakespeare, was the sole exhibitor in this breed.

Dorset Horns.—In this class the bulk of the prizes fell to John A. McGillivray, Uxbridge, while R. H. Harding came in for a share of the honors.

SWINE.

There was a splendid show of swine, and though a number were away at the World's Fair the exhibit was larger than usual. H. George & Sons, Crampton, Ont., showed a herd of no less than 25 Chester Whites and 8 Poland-Chinas, and Jos. Featherstone had 20 Yorkshires and 10 Suffolks. As with the sheep, the Ontario breeders carried off the cream of the prizes. The exception to this was in Improved Yorkshires, where nearly all the prizes went to Quebec, J. N. Greenshields, Danville, winning the larger number of prizes, including the herd prize. J. G. Mair won first for boar under twelve months, and also for sow under one year. A. Tate, Montreal, secured first on sow under six months, and second on herd.

Berkshires.—In this class, though there were a large number shown from Quebec, S. Coxworth, Claremont, and G. Green, Fairview, succeeded in capturing all the prizes.

Suffolks. Here R. Dorsey, Burnhamthorpe, Ont., and Jos. Featherstone, divided most of the prizes between them.

Poland-Chinas. In this class all the entries were from the West, the prizes going to W. H. Jones, Mount Elgin, and J. J. Payne, Chatham, Ont.

In *Chester Whites*, the prizes were principally taken by H. George, Crampton, and R. H. Harding, Thorndale.

A. Bell, of Amber, Ont., had a fine herd of twelve Tamworths, which were the first that have been exhibited here.

Autumn Care of Stock.

Owing to the drought that has so adversely affected the pasture over the greater part of our country during the last few months supplemental feeding of stock is necessary. It is very poor economy to allow animals to enter the winter in low condition, as in all probability, if they are allowed to lose their grass flesh, they will continue to be poor all winter, as a pound of flesh saved during the autumn counts for more than a pound put on during the cold weather. With changeable weather, stock requires more attention. Chilly nights will demand an increase of grain food, especially for young animals. Exposure to cold rains is detrimental to the healthfulness of all stock. The fall colts and calves, with their dams, require more care, and can not, as a rule, be fed too liberally. It is better that young colts and calves be kept off the pasture, from evening milking time till nine or ten a.m., when frosty nights arrive.