

AYRSHIRES.

This class is better filled, and contains finer animals than ever has before occurred. The herds of James Lawrie and J. P. Wheeler, of Scarborough; Thos. Grey, Oshawa; W. C. Wright, Cobourg; and Thos. Thompson, Williamsburg, are out in strong force. Thos. Thompson shows four imported from Scotland this fall, viz., bulls "Crown Prince" and "Highland Chief," and cows "Annie" and "Diamond," the last bred by his Grace the Duke of Buccleugh and Queensberry.

THE GRADES,

Though not as numerous as usual, are of a very high character of excellence, all of them being the product of crosses of short-horn bulls on native stock, and many having a very large proportion of short-horn blood in their veins. The cow classes contain some really fine specimens of milch cows, such as are needed in dairy districts; and in fact with the introduction of good short-horn bulls into every locality it should be the aim of the farmer to cross on his common stock all he can.

Of fat cattle and working oxen there are quite a number of entries, but very few of the animals had been brought in, probably because the stalls set apart for them were in a wet spot, and not boarded at the bottom.

SHEEP.

The sheep pens continue in the same deplorable condition, and up to a late hour of the day remained comparatively tenantless. A few of the animals who should have occupied them might be seen wandering at large in different parts of the ground. Towards evening, however, the pens were beginning to fill in some measure; but judging by the catalogue and actual arrivals, there will probably be a falling off, numerically, in this department of Exhibition.

F. W. Stone has two Cotswold shearing rams that only arrived from England ten days ago. They were bred by W. Cothier, Esq., of Middle Acton, Gloucestershire. Though not large sheep, they are the finest in quality and symmetry that have yet come out, and their wool is of particularly good quality. Probably when the judging takes place the scattered members of this department of the Exhibition will be brought together, and we shall be able to give a better account of them.

SWINE.

Under favourable circumstances there is little doubt but that the show of pigs this year would have been superior in numbers, as well as quality, to that of preceding exhibitions, but the miserable weather and the wretched condition of the pens has deterred many of the best and most enterprising breeders from

sending their pigs to the grounds. Consequently, though in most of the classes the number of entries exceeds that of last year, a very large proportion of the pens are empty, and the actual show is numerically small. The only class in which the entries show a falling off is in that for large breeds, and this is neither a matter of surprise nor of regret, for though undoubtedly the larger varieties have their use, especially for purposes of crossing, and should not, therefore, be altogether neglected, yet for general utility, of early maturity, thrift and economy in feeding and delicacy of flesh, there can be no question but that the smaller breeds are the most desirable. They are more easily managed, command a readier sale in the market, and will at a very early age attain weights the most convenient for the general consumer, giving the farmer a quicker return and a larger increase in proportion to the amount of food than the mammoths of the family. That this opinion is prevalent would appear from the very few representatives of the large breeds to be met with at the present exhibition, while in all the smaller varieties, though from causes already explained the show is small, the entries are increased.

In the class of improved Berkshires there is the largest competition, and many animals of very great merit were on the ground. Most noticeable among these were two splendid imported boars, one the property of Mr. George Roach, of Hamilton, the other of Mr. John Snell of Edmonton. The first of them is 13 months old, squarely built, with sufficient length, a good head and fine skin, and altogether an excellent type for the breeder. Mr. Snell's importation is a little younger, and perhaps of rather larger frame. Both are extremely valuable acquisitions to the country. Among the sows in the same class are three importations that arrest the admiration of every visitor. They are the property of Mr. Miller, of Pickering, and constituted a prize pen at the late Oxford Show of the Royal Society of England. They are nine months old, evidently of the same litter, though one of them, exhibited by herself in another section, seems to carry the palm for all the best qualities of this favourite variety. It certainly would not be easy to find a better model of porcine excellence. Apparently, they are as gentle and almost domestic in disposition as they are symmetrical in form.

Mr. George Roach exhibits some beautiful animals in the same section, though we understand that he withheld some of his best stock on account of the condition of the pens. Other exhibitors, whose names have on former occasions been found on the prize list, have again contributed to this very meritorious class.

Another breed which is unusually well

represented is the Essex, of which there are purer specimens than we ever remember to have seen at any Provincial Exhibition. Here again Mr. Roach is pre-eminent; and his imported specimens as well as the progeny of former importations, are admirably adapted to display points of this choice breed, and to render it a favorite on this side of the Atlantic. Amongst the aged boars Mr. Roach exhibits the sire of some of his best stock, a noble animal two years and eight months old, imported from England in 1868.—He also shows a number of younger ones that bid fair to rival their parent in excellence. Among the females of this breed Mr. Roach shows a ten month's old sow, that is without exception the prettiest animal of the kind that we have seen. As in all good pigs the head is remarkably small, the snout short, the legs short and fine, the body squarely and compactly built, with the back broad so as to give it the character known as a "tattle-back," making altogether a perfect study for the breeder. A number of younger sows of the same breed, shown by this enterprising exhibitor, give promise of rare excellence. They were all in prime condition and beautifully clean. Mr. McCrae, of Guelph, is also a prominent exhibitor of this variety, and shows good specimens.

The Suffolks are another good class, containing some very choice animals. Here also Mr. Roach has the lion's share of enterprise and honour. He shows largely in every section, some of the animals being importations of 1868, or the present year. Among such a number of first class animals it is not easy to select the choicest; but a 10-months' boar and a 10-months' sow took our fancy as much as any of the lot. Messrs. Featherstone, of Toronto Township, and Main, of Trafalgar, are also meritorious exhibitors in this class.

Of other small breeds, or rather mixed varieties and crosses of no particular breed, there is a miscellaneous collection, with a few animals of merit among them. Altogether the show of animals in this class of stock, notwithstanding the serious drawbacks of the wretched accommodation, gives evidence of marked improvement, which is, no doubt, chiefly due to the enterprise of those breeders who have imported good blood from Great Britain. There was not a single example of the White Chester breed on the grounds.

IMPLEMENTS.

No branch of the exhibition suffered more from the bad weather than the implements department. The continued rain of Monday made exhibitors afraid to bring their machines upon the ground, and in many cases we failed to find the owner or attendant of such as were on view. Many of the implements had not even a ticket attached, and we frequently re-