

Canada Central Fair

Nothing plays havoc with a great agricultural fair like a day or two's rain. It not only materially reduces receipts but takes away all the brightness and pleasure alike out of exhibitors and the few visitors who brave the storm. A bright, clear day is both conducive to large receipts and to the best enjoyment of the fall fair, and the exhibition that is so unfortunate as to strike a couple of days of wet weather during the best week of the show is certainly placed in an unenviable plight. Such, unfortunately, were the conditions which the management of the Canada Central Fair this season had to face during the best part of last week, the principal one of the show. The fair opened at Ottawa on Sept. 11th, and closed on Sept. 23rd. During the first week splendid weather prevailed, but as this was not the important week of the fair the crowds were not overly large; but during the second week, when every department of the show was complete and everything in good shape, the rain came on and continued for nearly two full days, lessening the number of visitors and making the grand stand performances very unsatisfactory. On Thursday and Friday better weather prevailed, and the old time crowds were on hand, but as so much time had been lost they were not sufficient to bring the attendance up to that of a year ago.

The show itself was on the whole a good one, and up to the standard of former years. The new main building, which was well filled with most attractive exhibits, greatly adds to the general appearance of the grounds. It is indeed well adapted for the purpose intended, and reflects credit upon the management. With a few exceptions every department was well filled, and people who were prevented from going because of the weather certainly missed seeing a very complete and up-to-date agricultural exhibition. From the somewhat condensed report which follows, the quantity and quality of the exhibits in the various lines may be gathered. As at Toronto and London a number of extra pens had to be erected to accommodate the live stock.

Horses.

There was a very good show of horses at Ottawa. Not by any means the great quantity brought out at Toronto, but in some of the classes there were a better lot out than even at Toronto. In light-legged road horses, carriage teams and high steppers, as well as horses under the saddle, Toronto far excelled, largely because the dealers made a great display there of horses fitted for sale. Here these classes had some very good animals, and several of the Toronto prize winners, but had neither the quantity nor the general quality of the Toronto show. In heavy horses Ottawa had rather the best of it. The winners in the Clyde class of stallions were not down, but instead the Eastern men from the provinces were out with a fine lot of animals, and the classes were better filled than at Toronto. This was more especially the case in the Canadian-bred classes, which at Ottawa were full of animals of fine quality, many of these good enough to have won in any show ring in Canada. Of Shires and Percherons there were very few shown—practically they were out of the running altogether. The heavy classes were Clydes and their grades almost altogether. Here they have still retained the old fashioned general purpose class, one very puzzling to the judges and annoying to the exhibitors, and the latter made some grumbling, as when a heavy animal got a ticket the owner of a lighter rival would feel hurt and go into details of the uselessness of that prize animal to "go for the doctor." Consequently he proceeded in forcible language to "go for the judge."

Thoroughbreds.

The Russell and District Stock Improvement Society had out three thoroughbreds and got first, second and third. A rich, golden chestnut, Slight of Hand, by Uncas, was preferred to the dark bay, June Day. The latter has had his day of first prizes, and in the past has

bred as fine a lot of half-bred colts as ever came on the Ottawa ground. Lately he has been in the neighborhood of Winchester, Ont. Gold Fox, from London, owned by Dr. O'Neil, V.S., was also out. He was second at London, and is a good, deep-ribbed animal. He was thrown out on veterinary inspection but this proved to have been a mistake as the class is to be rejudged. Fred. B. was placed third and Slight of Hand got the gold medal for stallion and his get, bringing out a lot of yearlings colored and built like the sire. There were no mares shown in the class.

Carriage Horses.

This class was headed by Shelby Chief, a fine dark dappled bay 16.3 hands, nine years' old, weighing in full flesh 1,450 lbs., and clean legged as a thoroughbred. He is owned by Alex. Blyth, Ottawa. Second place was given to King Chief, a rangy bay, claimed by his owner to be seven-eighths thoroughbred and one-eighth Morgan. He is like a good goer and stands high with good legs, more like a big good roadster than a carriage type. He is owned by John McCandlish, Ottawa. Dr. McCashan, Bainsville, had the winning two year-old. For brood mares W. C. Edwards, M.P., Rockland, had the winner with Norman; F. Wilson, of Cumberland, second for a well made grey, and third for her foal. There were full classes in the young geldings and fillies and many of these were shapely half-bred animals. For teams, Walter W. Cunningham, Ottawa, had first with a brown and a bay with white markings; R. Beith, M.P., second with a pair of high steppers. The former were also built much after hackney models and were a very gay team. For single carriage horse ten were out, mostly bays. M. H. Cochrane, Compton, Que., was first with a beautiful animal and second for span 15½ and under. These were rich in hackney blood and moved like clock work. The Anglo Saxon Tea Co. had a single low down driver good enough to win first place, second going to F. Bayne, Ottawa. For the special gold medals in this class E. S. Skead, Ottawa, captured both with five pairs of harness horses, the dark bays being very good movers. For farmer's team for the Ottawa district Melville Bleeks, Munster P.O., Carleton Co., had the winning team. They were bays and fairly good actors.

High Steppers.

In the high steppers, R. Beith, M.P., Bowmanville, had the first prize and gold medal for a fine pair, winners at Toronto. E. S. Skead, Ottawa, was second, and the Anglo-Saxon Tea Co. third. For the single high stepper, E. S. Skead was first with a beautiful dark bay, a great mover. Four-in-hand class was won by R. Beith, while in the class for tandems M. H. Cochrane was first and Robert Beith second. They both had fine turn-outs and the driving was much admired by large crowds. For coach horses there were but four prizes offered and but three entries. J. D. Forth, Glen Buell, was first with a big bay, a fine large horse and with good legs. Abram Miller, Arnprior, second, and A. McKibbin, Merrickville, third.

Hackneys.

There have been a larger number of Hackneys out, but those that were forward represented the leading breeders of the Dominion. M. H. Cochrane, Compton, Quebec, had a fine lot out. His is one of the oldest Hackney studs on the continent. R. Beith, M.P., had his fine string out and D. & O. Sorby sent a good contingent. R. Beith's Squire Rickell was the only aged horse shown. Sorby's Woodlands Performer is a bigger horse, thick-bodied and heavy, he was put first of the three year-olds. The Russell and District Stock Co. were second with one from the Bowmanville stables. They had also the first prize two year-old while Cochrane had a light roan yearling, a very good mover. In three-year-old fillies R. Beith had first and in two-year-olds Queen Louise won for Mr. Cochrane while Beith got first for yearling filly. There was a good lot of Hackney mares. After long deliberation "Miss Baker" was given first and championship. She is a very sweet