

EDITORIAL.

Mr. J. J. Payne's Poland-Chinas.

Our front page illustration for this issue furnishes an excellent idea of what skill and breeding has accomplished for one of the more modern breeds of swine. The Poland-Chinas portrayed are specimens of the Canadian Black Bess herd, owned by Mr. J. J. Payne, Chatham, Ont., and include the boars Elected and Rhet's Chief and the sow Countess 2nd. Elected has been a noted prize winner. In 1892 he was shown at each of Canada's leading fairs, and previously at the chief shows in the United States, and in each case he won first place. He was bred by Mr. S. M. Sheppard, Indianapolis, Ind., whose name has for many years been identified with this breed, and who has not only been eminently successful in breeding prize-winning animals, but has done much to bring Poland-Chinas to their present high state of perfection. Elected is a wonderfully smooth pig, full of quality and with plenty of character—desirable qualities for a successful sire. In length of side and shortness of leg Rhet's Chief is probably his equal, and in form surpasses him; both stand well on their legs. Rhet's Chief is a pig of great size, and has been chosen to follow Elected in the herd; judging from the uniform excellence of the pigs sired by him the selection was a wise one.

Countess 2nd is a celebrated show sow, and is a capital specimen of the breed. Length and depth of side, thick and deep hams, are points in which she excels, while in density of bone she is exceptionally good; she has produced some excellent pigs, her daughters and grand-daughters being among the best in their class shown this season.

The breeding stock in the Canadian Black Bess herd was chosen to supply swine breeders with stock that will fill the bill for pork production; they are of the type that advanced farmers are now seeking.

Mr. Payne has a very large herd; his customers, therefore, have a sufficient number of animals of the various strains to choose from, so that there is no difficulty in obtaining animals that are not related.

Candid Opinions on the Agricultural Outlook.

From a speech by Sir Wilfred Lawson, at the Aspatria Show dinner, on the question of agricultural depression, the following is taken:—

All this talk about legislation and about the House of Commons improving the position of the farmer was nothing more than moonshine. Could anybody out of a lunatic asylum believe that a democratic government, representing the democracy of the country, would ever set to work to increase the price of the produce they had to buy? It was moonshine—the wildest dream that ever entered anybody's head. It could never be done. The only thing the House of Commons could do to improve the position of the agricultural world was to pass such laws as would improve the condition and general happiness of the whole community, then the community would have more money to spend on agricultural produce, there would be more demand and a better price. There were other ways than that of legislation. Farmers must learn to produce cheaper. They must learn the scientific ways of going on. They must trust to themselves to minimize their labor, trust men like Dr. Webb to provide science, and trust Providence to provide sunshine. With all these three forces in operation, he hoped something might really be done to lessen the difficulties and improve the condition of the agricultural interest.

Once more the fiat has gone forth in Scotland, and the slaughter order is in force; 180 cattle owned by Mr. Robb, Flemmington, and 25 cattle owned by his neighbor, Mr. Jas. Park, Dechmonel, having been in contact with a milch cow affected with pleuro-pneumonia, which died in a Dundee dairy about a month ago, have been slaughtered during the last week. The affected cow came from Ireland, and was only a very short time on Flemmington farm, yet long enough to have communicated the disease to others had they been disposed that way. At the same time there have been cases in which the action of the subordinate officials of the Board of Agriculture has not been beyond criticism.

How does this make the actions of Mr. Gardner and his colleagues appear in regard to the scheduling of Canadian cattle? The more we know about pleuro-pneumonia and Mr. Gardner, the more ridiculous and unreasonable does the whole matter seem.

Horse Notes.

When a horse is not doing well, and the cause is not known, examine his mouth. Young and old horses are most liable to need correction. The incisors of the old horse are apt to grow so long that the molars cannot be closed. Young horses' teeth are often found to be sharp-cornered and uneven. A little careful rasping in either case rectifies the evil.

A horse that has the habit of rolling in the stall and becoming cast, can be made safe by attaching a rope to the top of the stall, directly over the animal's head, and having a snap attached to the suspended end to be snapped to a ring in the top of the halter, just allowing the horse's nose to touch the floor.

It is very unwise to allow young horses to become discouraged with heavy loads. Better to make a few more trips, or engage a team for a day or so, than to spoil a promising team.

For the halter-puller the following device makes an excellent corrective:—Make a slip noose of a strong manilla rope and pass it around the animal just forward of the hind legs, having the noose on the under side; then pass the rope between the body and girth, next between the forelegs and through the halter ring and post, and tie to the girth. After a puller has set back on the novel tie once or twice, he will find he is only squeezing himself unpleasantly, and that without breaking a halter or doing any damage.

Feeding Colts.

At the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station an experiment was made in determining the value of different methods of wintering weanling colts.

The results obtained in a former trial of ground vs. unground feed, the former mixed with a small amount of moistened cut hay, although not striking, were clearly in favor of the grinding, the advantage being more than sufficient to cover the additional expense.

During the month of January, previous to the beginning of the experiment, the two lots of colts used were all fed alike.

During the first period the daily grain ration at the beginning of the trial was 6 lbs. of ground oats, 6 lbs. of corn and cob-meal, 2 lbs. of bran, 1 lb. of oil-meal and 5 lbs. of cut hay to each colt in lot one. The daily ration to each colt in lot two was the same, with the exception of like amounts of ear-corn, unground oats and uncut hay. On February 13 the total grain ration to each lot was increased to 16 lbs. per day by increasing the daily allowance of oats 1 lb., and continuing the same to the close of the experiment.

From the beginning of February to March 13, group one made a total gain of 149 lbs., while group two increased in weight 127 lbs. During a similar length of time group one received whole grain, and group two ground, which also showed an advantage in grinding the grain and cutting the hay.

It is generally estimated that it cost more to winter a weanling colt than a yearling, and under average conditions this assumption is correct; but when this is the case, it is probably the result of the fact that the yearling colt is capable of making better use of the rougher and cheaper feeds of the farm, and not to superior digestive and assimilative power in utilizing feed of the best quality. The weanling colt requires palatable and nutritious feed of a high quality, and is capable of rendering a good account of such a ration.

The present wide range of prices in the horse market indicates the necessity of producing horses of the highest excellence. A recent quotation of Chicago sales showed a range of prices from \$12.00 per head to \$1,000 for a pair of fine matched drivers; \$12.00 to \$500 is fairly illustrative of the difference in value of horses, due to right methods and skilled handling.

The value of a horse depends upon the aggregate of all his qualities at maturity. If by changing any of our methods we can add even a little to the superiority of the finished horse, that will have relatively a higher value. A certain degree of excellence makes the common horse, with which our markets are overstocked.

Clearly it is the highest excellence commands the highest price, and almost invariably returns most profit in horse raising. The present demand is for better horses, and whatever methods will enable the producer to meet this demand deserve consideration.

The Minister of Agriculture has appointed the following gentlemen to serve on the staff of the Ontario Agricultural College. They will enter on their duties at once: Wm. Remie, Swanton, Farm Superintendent; G. E. Day, B. S. A., Guelph, lecturer on agriculture and live stock; H. L. Hutt, B. S. A., Southend, Welland, lecturer on horticulture; and J. B. Reynolds, B. A., Guelph, assistant resident master, to take the place of Mr. John M. Crae, who is returning to the university to complete his course.

Toronto Industrial.

The recent show has more than kept pace with its predecessors, and although it was predicted that the World's Fair would rob the Industrial of much of the interest this year, the immense crowds that attended throughout the second week completely refuted any such predictions.

One of the strong points of interest in this year's show is the beautiful new buildings that have been erected during the past summer, and are a vast improvement over the old ones, or even over those at Chicago, and acknowledged to be the best on the continent. The plans of these were chosen by Mr. Manager Hill, after inspecting the leading show-grounds of the United States. With the present arrangement, the horses and cattle are open to the view of all the visitors, and vast crowds showed their appreciation by thronging the aisles of the different horse and cattle buildings throughout the week.

Canadians may well feel proud of the Industrial. It has not only obtained a name for itself, but has become the best advertising medium for Canada at large, for the very fact that Canadians can make and support such an exhibition speaks more for the capabilities of the country than all the written encomiums that are being passed around. An object lesson that struck home most forcibly is, that although all the side attractions were present throughout the first week, yet the attendance was very light with the exception of Friday, which was Children's Day; and during the first week the receipts would hardly pay for the expense of running, which shows that if the present attractions are appreciated by the public at large, it requires the stock and agricultural products to bring the crowds to the show; and that it is difficult to get people from a distance to see merely circus performances. It was generally anticipated that the present season would not bring out a heavy exhibit, but those who reckoned upon easy winnings in their respective classes were surprised at the immense number of entries throughout each of the stock departments, as these were full to overflowing, and in the majority of the classes the quality of the animals was quite above the best exhibits of previous years.

HORSES.

The vast improvement in point of quality in horses shown for street, park and pleasure purposes, was the more apparent on account of the better defining how and in what vehicle they should be shown, and in this the management deserve the highest praise, as the proper division of breeds and types in horses is not only much more satisfactory to exhibitors and judges, but is also of far greater importance from an educational standpoint.

For aged thoroughbred stallions, premiums in two sections are now offered. The first of these is intended for horses of a racing type, while the other is for stallions calculated for getting hunters and saddle and harness horses; and among these some admirable specimens were brought out. Of the eight in the former ring, Brown & Gilkinson's (Brampton) Woodburn, by King Alphonse, was awarded first premium, June Day awarded second, and Shillington, by Doncaster, a beautiful horse of very much the same line of breeding as the sensational horse, "Ormonde," was given third.

In the latter section, Mr. Fred. Row scored a first premium on his imported horse Norwegian, by Perigrine, and a right good one he is—not only being qualified to carry up to great weight himself, but he has done some stout running in England, having won in some strongly-contested events there. The Chicken, belonging to Mr. Geo. Pepper's (Markham) stud, gained second, and the beautiful horse Wiley Buckles, that has won this prize at three previous meetings, and is owned by Quinn Bros., Brampton, was placed third. There were also a number of excellent young stallions forward, and the class was freer from the weeds that we have seen frequently in former years.

The mare and filly classes were, if anything, still better brought out, and the admirable form and great size of the fillies from Thorncliffe Stock Farm of Mr. Robt. Davies, Todmorden, were the admired of all admirers among visiting horsemen. To show that Thoroughbreds are increasing, there were in all something over fifty on exhibition, and doubtless the magnificent specimens of thoroughbred horses that are now in Ontario will have a most beneficial effect on our stock of horses.

In road horses the Industrial offered for the first time premiums for two classes, defined as roadsters over fifteen and a-half hands, and standard-bred horses with certificate of registration from the American Trotting Horse Record. In the former there were upwards of one hundred and fifty entries, and in the latter nearly fifty, a number of standard-bred horses showing in the open class, which accounted for the large number of entries in it. In point of fact, the classes proved to be duplicates, as horses of the best known trotting families were found in both. Many exceedingly good individuals of the most fashionable breeding were brought out, but the immense number of entries precludes any idea of criticism.

The class for carriage horses over 16½ hands was brought out in good form. Many of those that carried the premiums were old-time winners, and these were chiefly of Yorkshire Coach and Cleveland breeding. Thus, Irving's (Winchester) imp. Prince Arthur, successful at Chicago, won first in his class