

THE PROVINCIAL WINTER SHOW, AND OTHER MEETINGS AT GUELPH.

Specially reported for FARMING.

I. THE PROVINCIAL WINTER SHOW.

The thirteenth annual Ontario Provincial Winter Show, held in Guelph on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of December, 1896, under the auspices of the various live stock and dairy associations, the Fat Stock Club, the city council, and the Board of Trade of the city of Guelph, and of the Ontario Agricultural College, has been pronounced the best show of its kind ever held in Canada.

The number of entries ran up to over six hundred, which is greatly in excess of previous years, and the commodious Victoria Rink was taxed to its utmost to provide accommodation for all the exhibits. Never before has there been such a fine lot of fat stock gathered together at Guelph. The high quality of the exhibits, especially in the sheep classes, was commented upon by many. The management are to be congratulated on the magnificent success of the show. The splendid meetings of the various breeders' associations, the public meeting in the city hall, the annual dinner, the meeting of the Experimental Union at the Ontario Agricultural College, and the presence of two Ministers of Agriculture at these gatherings, all tended to the success of the show, and to make the week one of the most important of the year.

The Fat Cattle.

The entries in the cattle classes were greatly in excess of those of last year, while the quality was equally good. There were nearly as many fat cattle present as there were at the New York show; the quality would compare very favorably also, though the "toppers" at New York were of better quality than those at Guelph. The Shorthorns an 'their grades made up the larger number of animals, though the Herefords, Polled Angus, Galloways, and Devons were well represented. The judges, Thomas Crawford, M.P.P., Toronto, and James Smith, Brantford, selected the prize-winners with a rapidity and precision that denoted a thorough knowledge of good fat beef. The judging was done more than ever from a butcher's than a breeder's standpoint, greater value being placed on those animals that would kill to the best advantage, and that carried a wealth of flesh in the most valuable places, rather than on fancy points, so pleasing to a breeder's eye, yet not productive in dollars and cents.

SHORTHORNS.—The exhibitors in the class for registered Shorthorns were: H. & W. Smith, Hay; J. & P. Crerar, Shakespeare; R. J. Robinson, Ailsa Craig; J. Oke & Sons, Alvinston; John Fried, Roseville; Joseph Kirby, Armstrong's Mills; A. & F. Bolton, Armstrong's Mills; William Dredge, Nassagaweya; Robert Talbot, Eramosa; W. J. Rudd, Eden Mills; and Isaac Groff, Elmira.

In the section for steers two years and under three, H. & W. Smith had the only entry, a blocky, thick fleshed steer that would have stood some competition. Three fine animals entered the ring in the yearling class. First place was quickly given to an ideal butcher's animal, Duke, a red roan shown by Mr. Groff. He is a typical butcher's steer, and was greatly admired. He was not highly fitted, but his flesh was so smooth and firm, so well distributed in the most valuable places, his coat so mossy, and his style so pleasing, that he was an easy winner. However, through some irregularity in regard to the entry, a protest was entered, he was ruled out, and first place then went to H. & W. Smith's Bruce, by Abbotsford, a white, low-set, blocky, thick-fleshed steer; and second place was taken by J. Kirby's Guelph Warrior. There were five good entries in the calf class. First place went to Barney, a thick-fleshed, good-backed animal shown by A. & F. Bolton; Clipper, shown by John Fried, was placed sec-

ond; with J. Oke & Sons' Rob Roy third. The section for cow or heifer three years and over brought out a strong ring that gave the judges some trouble, and Mr. Russell was called in to decide. First place was ultimately given to R. J. Robinson's Constance 4th, an exceedingly well-finished animal; second place went to Bessie, a thick-fleshed, mossy-coated heifer of R. Talbot's (really the more profitable butcher's animal); while third place went to Crerar's Rosabel, a general favorite, and one that many thought would have taken a higher place, but she was not as highly finished as Constance 4th. The two-year-old section brought out two outstanding good ones, John Fried's Roseville Fancy, a thick-fleshed, well-ripened heifer, and one of the very best animals at the show, and Gowan 2nd, a firm, even-fleshed entry of Messrs. Smith's. They were placed in the order named, and third place given to Crerar's Indian Princess. The yearlings were represented by only one entry, J. Fried's Oxford Rose, a good one, and one that would have stood strong competition.

SHORTHORN GRADES.—The section for two years and under three brought out a good lot. First place went to Clinker, shown by W. H. Nichols, of Hamilton. Clinker was a general favorite; he was first as a calf in 1894, weighing 990 lbs. at 11 months; first as a yearling in 1895, weighing 1,730 lbs. at 22 months; and first again in 1896, weighing, at 2 years and 11 months, 2,275 lbs. He was bred by D. D. Wilson, of Senaford, and is a splendid example of the early-maturing ability of the Shorthorns. Although he was so big, yet there was no coarseness about him, but a wealth of smooth, firm, thick flesh. He was a veritable mountain of flesh, and was sold for \$200. Mr. Leask's Jack won second place. He is a particularly good steer, well proportioned, good level quarters, loin deeply covered, a mellow hide, and an animal that will kill with a very small percentage of waste. Third place went to Mr. Leask also, for an animal of very much the same type, but not so good in the back, or so thickly fleshed. In the yearling section Mr. Rennie's roan, Captain, was placed first. He weighed 1,600 lbs.; he is very evenly fleshed, and in form is very near a perfect type. A very good second was found in Mr. D. Stewart's Everton Lad, and R. J. Robinson won third money with a good red steer, Billy, by Indian Wing. The section for steer calves was a very strong one, there being seven entries. Mr. J. Fried won first place with a deep-bodied, promising young animal; second place went to a neat, compact, even-fleshed animal shown by John Campbell; and third to Mr. Leask's Jumbo, a son of Moneyfuffel Lad.

The above prizes for Shorthorn grades were given by the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association. The sweepstakes for best registered Shorthorn steer went to J. Groff's Duke, but, not being able to give satisfactory proof that he was eligible for registration, he was ruled out, and the award was given to Messrs. Smith's Bruce.

HEREFORDS AND POLLED ANGUS.—These two breeds were classed together, and animals were shown by F. W. Stone Estate, Alfred Stone, Hugh McDougall, and James Bowman, all of Guelph. Taken as a class, they were not nearly so highly finished as the Shorthorns were, though there were a number of splendid representatives shown. In the two-year-old section Mr. A. Stone's heifer (Hereford), a short-legged, smooth, firm-fleshed animal, was placed first; second went to Hugh McDougall's Blooming Rose (Polled Angus); and third to J. Bowman's Heather Belle (Polled Angus). In the yearling section first and second went to the F. W. Stone Estate, and third to a heifer shown by J. Bowman. In calves Mr. Bowman secured first and the Stone Estate second and third. For best cow or heifer three years and over, James Bowman's Mysie and, a ten-year-old cow, long, deep, and very evenly fleshed, was placed first, and a very typical animal of Alfred Stone's was placed second.

GALLOWAYS AND DEVONS.—These two breeds showed together. They also were not in as high condition as one expects to see at a fat stock show, but there were some good animals among them. The Galloways were shown by Messrs. David McCrae, Guelph, and James Yule, Elder's Mills; the Devons by Mr. W. J. Rudd, Eden Mills. In the two-year-old section there were five entries. Dr. McCrae secured first for Semiramis E., a deep-fleshed, good handling animal, and third for Chicory; W. J. Rudd secured second place with Look Out. D. McCrae won