



Marcellus (imp.) =79317=.

Three-year-old Shorthorn bull. First in the aged class at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, 1912. Owned and exhibited by T. E. & H. C. Robson, Ilderton, Ont.

the public, and the Western Fair directorate cannot too speedily face the issue squarely and seriously that the Live-Stock Department is not made the educational factor that it is supposed to be, and can be made. As an incentive and object lesson the benefits are very largely lost, because the people are not encouraged to witness the awarding of the prizes, nor is it done in a way designed to impart information as to breeds of animals or winnings. If we except a few isolated board seats exposed to the blazing sun or pelting showers, as the case may be, there is absolutely no provision for the convenience or comfort of on-lookers, least of all for those who want to learn. What is needed, of course, is a large covered arena which exhibitions determined to keep to the front, provide. When the people observe the elaborate grand-stand provision made, and facilities for merchants and manufacturers they naturally conclude that the management is indifferent to the live-stock end of the show. While not saying that this is correct, it is time that there was a re-alignment of emphasis for the future well-being of the fair. The present condition is not justice to live-stock husbandry, which is the backbone of Ontario agriculture.

There was a real treat for visitors in the department for agricultural and horticultural products in which Western Ontario "did itself proud," and both the growers and the management of the fair are to be congratulated upon the way in which the exhibits were presented. The presence of an ambitious British Columbia display enables the public to appreciate the superior quality of what is produced in Middlesex, and adjacent counties. The Mecca of the dairymen, was, of course, in the building where superb displays of milk products were found and competitions by skilled users of the churn. Being the headquarters of the very-much-alive Western Dairymen's Association, people naturally expect fine displays of butter and cheese at London and were not disappointed. The June and July cheese were especially choice and an exhibit of butter in boxes from Quebec province scored, 100 points—perfection. And Western Ontario flows with honey likewise, as several beautiful displays bore witness. In poultry, too, the exhibition scored another triumph for the lovers of utility and fancy birds in practically all classes. In so far as living birds can tell the story, the show demonstrates a high degree of attainment in this industry, one of the greatest economic value to the farm.

In the Main Building manufacturers and merchants contributed characteristic displays up to the usual order of merit, and so numerous were musical instruments that a large show of pianos had to be shown under canvas. Crowds of people thronged about the displays of hosiery making in the annex to the Main Building, and were also particularly well pleased with the wood-working by school boys, and the exhibits of sensibly directed activities in manual training. Stratford is to be congratulated on the tastefully executed display of school work. London has always been the seat of a progressive carriage-making industry, the products of which were in

evidence rather more strikingly than the motor vehicles. Nearly every town of any industrial pretensions seems to have one or more firms engaged in the manufacture of gasoline engines, so that Niagara power, of which there were two large demonstration outfits on the grounds, would not have the field all to itself, which is likely a good thing from the farmer's point of view. The manufacturers' building was more crowded than ever, the display of stoves and ranges being probably the largest and best ever seen at this show. They were beautiful to look at, though not needed to keep up the temperature on Tuesday which was hot enough to cook without fuel. For such weather the officers of the fair would do well to make their preparations for ventilation. Some of the old door spaces had been closed up to make room for extra exhibits. Concrete machinery, clover hullers, potato-culture machinery, fencing and gates, and fertilizers were among the features that were worth the careful study of visitors.

Among the newer features at the show were the booth of the Middlesex Representative of the Department of Agriculture (Mr. Whale), and the Baptist denomination of the city displayed a stroke of commendable enterprise in providing a large tent with comfortable seating and tables for

writing, and a musical instrument used in leading occasional Gospel Services. Many a foot-weary sightseer must have appreciated those seats of which there is a deplorable lack about the grounds. It is to be hoped that the fair finances will warrant some additional comfort for the tired folk before another year. The grand stand may be popular, but everybody didn't go there. The midway was as conspicuous as usual, and of probably about the usual order. Mad-dog scares and municipal restrictions for the prevention of rabies seem to have had no appreciable effect in curtailing the show of canines, which please a lot of people mightily. The Western Fair grounds are becoming very much crowded, which shows that the institution is not a dead one, but decidedly alive, and with a number of additional improvements, as suggested, will keep on growing in popularity and, we hope, usefulness to the public. Beautiful weather and great crowds favored the fair.

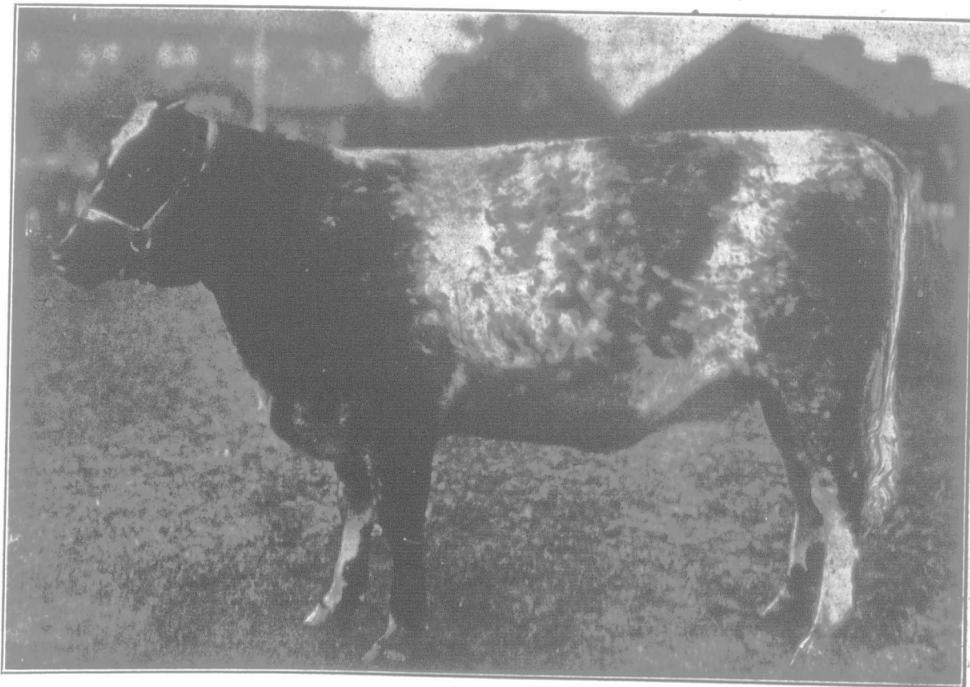
In the Agricultural Hall.

The products to be seen in the Agricultural and Horticultural Hall are in a sense the most important in the whole show. The kindly fruits of the earth, the grain, the vegetables and fruit, minister to the first need of man and beast. Food is the first requisite for life. In a real sense then this department furnishes a base upon which all the others really rest.

"Ontario never has a crop failure," is a saying that a farmer once used in speaking about a certain season which threatened to be disastrous, but proved instead to be quite prosperous. Last year, in spite of a summer of exceeding dryness, the show of agricultural products at the Western Fair gave little sign of any deficiency. The wet, cool summer through which we have just passed this season, while delaying the ripening of some crops has helped the development of others. The specimens of roots exhibited, especially of Sweedish and Grey Stone turnips, were usually large. In the gardener's section the same was to be noticed in regard to cabbage and celery of which the display was both large and fine. Potatoes are not now shown in bushel or peck lots as formerly, but are spread out upon a table in groups of sixteen each. Fine, even lots of good size were exhibited, some of them so well washed and scoured that they looked as if varnished.

In the field-grain section the samples of peas shown, both large and small white, were very fine. Other grains were fair, exhibits in the sheaf adding to the attractiveness of the display. Entries in this section were not very numerous, very few indeed going without a prize ticket of some color. But what shall be said of the show of corn? The season doubtless got in its work here. These samples in the sheaf, and in the ear, one bushel each of yellow dent and white flint corn made up the whole exhibit.

Garden vegetables other than those already mentioned were in fair quantity and well displayed. A table, on which was piled in attractive form specimens of almost every vegetable grown, was shown by the London Branch of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association.



Burnbrae Wimple.

Shorthorn senior heifer ca lf. First in class, and junior champion female, Toronto, 1912. Owner, R. W. Caswell, Saskatoon, Sask.