

Western Fair.

In the matter of exhibitions, as in other things, competition serves as an impetus. Within the last two years our two largest Ontario shows, outside of the Toronto Industrial, have each put their best foot forward in the construction of new live stock buildings, until exhibitors feel that their stock can be about as well cared for at the shows as in their own stables. This is true to a large extent, and where not so the experience of each year will govern the character of improvements made for the next annual meeting. It was considered last year when the construction was in progress that sufficient space had been taken in to more than accommodate all stock that would come, but it seems that the more space is provided the greater the demand, as at the show just past all classes of live stock, except horses, were crowded until additional provision had to be made after the show had commenced. The cattle range, although larger than that of last year, was found inadequate, and horse stalls had to be appropriated to the accommodation of a few entries. The new swine pens were found all too small, and a large addition had to be made. It has been decided to devote the entire cattle and sheep space to cattle next year and to build a new pen for the sheep. Just here we might offer the suggestion that it would be well to learn the plan upon which the Winnipeg pens are constructed, and follow them if a better is not found, which we do not believe there will be. The general complaint of exhibitors is the lack of free air currents in exhibition sheep pens, and that is what the Winnipeg people have especially guarded against, besides allowing plenty of room and light. The new hog pens gave good satisfaction, and will when enlarged and given some slight improvements fulfill the needs well.

The horse barn could advantageously have been given a trifle more room, so that the box stalls could have been wider. Now a big Clydesdale can while eating oats at one side scrub the hair out of his tail on the opposite one. There is a feeling too that more loose boxes should be provided, especially for draft stock, as it is almost impossible to keep the legs and joints of highly fitted animals in cool, natural condition while standing tied most of the time for a week. Below we give a comprehensive report of the main live stock features of the show:

HORSES.

The parade each day, although not as full as it should have been, owing to the inability of large exhibitors to take out all their prize animals, presented to the view of spectators a high-class exhibition. Some of the classes were perhaps not as large as we have seen here, but seldom was a prize taken by an unworthy animal.

Carriage and Coach horses showed together and turned out better than usual. They were judged by John S. Choppin, Mitchell, Ont. In the aged stallion section there were seven entries made up of Cleveland Bay, German Coach and trotting-bred animals. On several former occasions the Germans have had the best of the honors, but this year a Yorkshire-bred horse of beautiful pattern, and brought out in capital form by O. B. Wilson, Holmesville, had a comparatively easy victory. He is of more coach than carriage pattern. Next him stood Dr. Ling, by the Standard-bred sire Solitaire. He is a more rangy horse, possessing a deal of desirable carriage quality. The 3rd award went to a big, good German Coach horse, while several good animals of lighter stamp, including winners of former years, were unplaced. The pure white Silver King, of Arabian breeding, was the only entry in three-year-olds. He is owned by Wm. Butler, Granton, and was much admired for his beauty. He is a fair mover and of good size. Two good two-year-olds competed. The yearling stallion section was decidedly better than has been at the Western for years, indicating a more hopeful turn in horse breeding. The same may be said of brood mares and foals. In the former there were five entries, in which the gets of Thoroughbred sires made a good impression. Seven brood mares competed. The 1st and 2nd prize mares were of large coach stamp, the former by Royal Duke and her 2nd prize foal by Stanford Bridge Swell. These were shown by W. H. Guest, Ballymote. The 2nd prize foal was by Venus, and from the 1st prize mare shown by M. T. Rosser & Bro., Denfield. The gelding or filly sections were all good, and each had from five to seven entries. The harnessed sections were well filled. Those sixteen hands and over seldom reach more than three or four, but this year five pairs competed, among which were at least two grand teams. The 1st prize entry was a solid pair of brown coachers, shown by Smith & Head, Rockwood, while the 2nd prize winners were a rangy, showy team of well-mated creams, exhibited by G. W. Falle, Belmont. There were eleven entries in the smaller double carriage class. The best pair were high-class park horses with banged tails and beautiful action; shown by S. B. Fuller, Woodstock; while J. H. McLaughlin, Woodstock, stood 2nd on a trotting-bred pair of flash bays; the latter exhibitor also winning 2nd on beautiful single chestnut, being beaten by N. McLurg, Falkirk, in a section of twenty entries. John Nearn won the sweepstakes female award on a beautiful bay by Phenomenon.

Standard-bred Trotters are not given much of a show at this exhibition, as there are only two sections in the prize list, that for stallions four years old and upwards and for stallions three years old and under. Judging from the number of competitors these sections can soon be dispensed with, there being a single entry shown in either section. The older horse exhibited was the pacing John Henry, by Old Booker. He is a fine, sharp, breezy fellow, shown by R. S. Fulton, Brownsville. Dr. Mahan, of London, showed the colt, a racy youngster of considerable promise. E. A. Blackwell, Glencoe, handed out the tickets.

Roadsters always fill a good class at London. They were judged by Wm. Stephens, St. Mary's, who turned down a number of Toronto winners. In the mature stallion section the ordinary rule of confining the entries to non-standard-bred stock was not adhered to, with the result that all the awards were taken by Standard-bred horses. The section was a good one of six entries. The winner was the favorably-known Gold Ring, owned by J. H. Glover, Aylmer. He is a beautiful horse, of useful size

and more than ordinarily intelligent, as on several occasions he trotted full miles without driver or sulky in very fast time—a sensational feat all must agree. Such a horse could hardly fail to beget trotters from reasonably good mares. He also won the sweepstakes award. The entries shown by D. McKellar, Alvinston, and R. C. Coats, Thamesville, were also choice horses. Black Valentine, the Toronto winner of last year and 2nd winner of this year, was not placed. As a roadster stallion he is hard to fault. The gelding or filly sections on the line were well filled with high-class stock, there being long strings in several cases. Here, as in Toronto, some of the best prizes were taken by the gets of Thoroughbred sires, as was also the case in yearling stallions. The best mare any age was found in J. B. Cowieson's two-year-old daughter of Lee Christie and his 2nd prize brood mare Maud, winner of 1st in Toronto. This beautiful filly did the same trick as a yearling, as she had a perfect right to do. She belongs to a handsome family, as her foal sister won 1st, her yearling sister 2nd in roadsters, and her three-year-old brother 2nd in the carriage class—all from the Thoroughbred Lee Christie. Single roadsters in harness furnished the judge no easy task, there being 25 entries made and most of them present. There are a ways a few weeds here, but the average quality this year was higher than usual. The gets of trotting sires were most in evidence, many of whom could strike a rapid clip to a buggy. Geo. McCormick, London, and Dr. Routledge, Lambeth, were the keenest contestants, each driving well-bred, nice-mannered horses. The former won with little to spare, with D. C. Bell, of London, close at their heels. Pairs were less numerous. Dr. Routledge scored here with a well-mated entry.

Thoroughbred Horses.—The entry this year was, as usual, not large in the younger sections, but mature stallions and brood mares turned out well. The stallions were judged by Robt. McEwen, Byron, and the remaining sections by S. B. Fuller, Woodstock. Among the stallions were a number of well-reputed sires, such as King Bob, Wyndham, Gold Foal, and Grand Falconer. The Toronto decisions were much upset in this contest, as the 1st prize Wyndham shown by S. B. Fuller at Toronto left the ring here without a place, while King Bob, shown by W. J. Thompson, Orkney, that stood two below him in Toronto, was placed 1st here. We must allow that both judges were justified, as the horses are of different pattern and excellent in their way. Perhaps as a sire of saddle stock King Bob excels, whereas Wyndham should get better carriage horses. Adam Beck's racy imported bay, Grand Falconer, was placed 2nd. Gold Fox, by Falconer 2nd, was a good animal to have to leave out, as he has many strong features. John Dymont, Orkney, won on younger stallions, while Adam Beck, London, was the main exhibitor of mares, which were mostly of fine turf pattern. Harry O'Neil, London, and W. A. Sage, Nilestown, were also prize winners. Messrs. A. Frank & Sons, The Grange, had a fine exhibit on the grounds, but through some misunderstanding failed to get them before the judge. This is to be regretted, as they would have helped the exhibit.

Saddle Horses and Hunters made a high-class exhibit, with such men in competition as Adam Beck, who did so well the previous week in Toronto. There was a good number of entries in nearly every section. In heavy-weights Adam Beck won 1st and 2nd on a grand pair of 16-hand chestnuts well-nigh Thoroughbred, with Dr. O'Neil 3rd on an upstanding bay. Other successful competitors were Alex. Bowker, Woodstock, and Robert Chambers, Currie's, but Beck secured the bulk of awards.

Hackneys were well represented in quality if not in numbers. In stallions three years old and upwards four contestants appeared, viz.: D. & O. Sorby's Square Shot; Jubilee Chief, now owned by East Elgin Horse Breeders' Association, formerly by Beith & Co., Bowmanville; Richard Gibson's Royal Dane; and Alex. Bowker's (Woodstock) Shah and Cocker's Nelson. Mr. Robert McEwen, who placed the awards, took some time deciding between the two first-named entries. When they used to meet Jubilee Chief was the victor, but on this occasion he was not in his usual show fit, but went about as well as ever. He was, however, placed after the Guelph entry, who was in beautiful form and went strong, high, and pleasingly. Royal Dane was a winner in his colt days for his breeders, Hillhurst Farm. He is a son of the noted show mare, Lady Dagmar, and Cannymar, both tracing to the great sire Denmark. He is bay in color, with two white feet; five years old, stands 15 hands 2 inches, and is quite an actor. The Woodstock horses were in good form. Sorby also had forward Miss Baker, her yearling Woodlands Performer, and her foal by Square Shot, winning 1st on each of them, followed in each case by entries of Mr. Bowker's.

There were just four high-steppers shown in harness. The winner was found in Adam Beck's gay and beautiful acting little gelding, Brandy, who figured conspicuously at last spring's Canadian Horse Show. Smith & Head, Rockton, stood 2nd on a lowset, trappy bay, also a good actor; while Sorby's big black three-year-old that will beat them all in another year followed. This colt is a bit raw, but he has it in him to command respect.

Clydesdales (imported) were judged by Mr. Donald McInnis, Exeter. This class had a number of Toronto winners, which indicates the character of the exhibits. D. & O. Sorby were forward with their well-fitted lot, which make a good show within themselves, while a number of other good breeding studs were represented. In mature stallions, Sorby's Grandeur and Prince Charming had a right to win, as they did, 1st and 2nd; in fact, they can win in almost any company. Hodgert & Delgaty, Farquhar, also had forward a good horse and won 3rd. R. Shaw-Wood's Shamrock, a hardy, good limbed horse, and a good sire, was unplaced. John Oliver, Duncrief, showed a beautiful son of Old Wighton Lad, from a Macgregor-bred mare, also a fine upstanding brood mare and a three-year-old filly, winning 1st on each of them. Messrs. Sorby won the team and remaining mare prizes, including the sweepstakes female award on the capital two-year-old daughter of Grandeur, who captured the same enviable award in Toronto. A general favorite among the horsemen was James Henderson's

(Belton) imported two-year-old Goldfinder 2nd. We would have liked to see a good hot class here, but no others came against him in his class. He won the male sweepstakes award. Innis & Horton, Clinton, had forward three worthy yearling colts, upon which they won all the money offered.

Clydesdales (Canadian-bred) had quite keen competition throughout. They were judged by James D. Hedley, St. Mary's. There were four entries of various types in mature stallions. H. G. Boag's (Queensville) Grand Salute, by Grand Times, went to the top. He is a showy, well put-up horse, with capital underpinning and action. James Holmes, Woodstock, showed King Craft, by Custodian, a smooth, rather fine horse of good type. He was placed ahead of Robert Miner's (Cairo) entry, a cocky little horse of attractive make-up. C. H. Baskerville, Centralia, showed the only three-year-old in Alcides, by Canny Scotchman, a deep-bodied, symmetrical, nicely imbed and muscled colt, on which he won the stallion sweepstakes award. The three yearling colts shown put up a strong competition. John Essery, Exeter, had the favorite in a handsome, promising youngster. His opponents, by Glenlyon Chief and Monksman, were not as handsome, but may mature into larger horses. The mare sections were better than usual, although not large. There were five very good ones in the two-year-old section. Here the sweepstakes female was found in a daughter of Grandeur, shown by D. & O. Sorby, followed by a noble filly shown by Jos. Linstead, Queensville. Thos. Dale had forward a grand mare and foal, and John McIntosh, Maplewood, a beautiful yearling. A valuable pair of three-year-old geldings were shown by James McIntosh and Jos. Linstead, Queensville. There should be no scarcity of this sort, but such is far from being the case. A pair of mares that have made their annual bow to Western Fair judges in this class almost since they were foals, and winning on each occasion, took the team premium this year. Heretofore they were owned and shown by John Robinson, St. Mary's, but now by Harry Sims, Thamesville. They are full sisters, by Bay Wallace, five and six years old, each weighing over 1,800 pounds.

Agricultural Horses are dwindling at this show from year to year, perhaps because only two small prizes are offered in each section. The entry was small throughout, but there were very good farm horses among them. M. T. Rosser, Denfield; R. Shaw-Wood, London; Wm. Kay, Farquhar; B. Matthews, Denfield; and Wm. Moor, Fernhill, were the prize winners, the last named securing the sweepstakes award on his three-year-old mare that has won here on two previous occasions. P. McGregor, Brucefield, officiated as judge, and regretted to see this useful class losing ground. He also placed the ticket on the only general-purpose team brought out, that of R. Shaw-Wood, a pair that would have been in place in the agricultural class.

CATTLE.

Owing to the fact that there was no other large exhibition on the Dominion slate in the same week the Western Fair had the benefit of the presence of most of the cattle exhibited at Toronto the previous week, and in addition a considerable number which were not in the competition there. As a result the large and commodious stables on the London fair ground were packed full of first class stock. It was the greatest show of cattle in the history of the Western Fair, and there is some foundation for the claim that the exhibits were more select than those at Toronto, since a considerable number of those which failed to get into the prize list there were returned home, but this was offset by the fact that a few of the Toronto winners did not follow the circuit, and some of the local entries were not up to a high standard of quality. There were more than the usual number of reversals of the decisions at the former show, whether owing to a better selection of judges we are not prepared to affirm.

Northhorns.—Most of the principal exhibits in this class at Toronto were in evidence at the Western, and a few creditable animals from local districts were also shown. Mr. Wm. Linton, Aurora, officiated as judge, and, while generally confirming the Toronto awards, he made a few rather important reversals, among which was the granting of the sweepstakes prize in bulls to Mr. Leask's three-year-old bull, Moneyfuffel Lad, over Captain Robson's Nominee, who was awarded that honor by the two judges who held court at Toronto the previous week. The choice in this case is largely a matter of taste, and knowing the predilections of the appellate judge it was not surprising that he should rule as he did; but we were not so well prepared for the decision which took the female championship from Captain Robson's comely white Mysie's Rose and handed it to her stable companion of the same herd—the Sonnie red-haired Daisy of Strathallan 12th—good as she is and worthy of high rating in any company. We are quite sure the color of her hair had nothing to do with it, for Linton loves a white one, having been raised among that sort, and he is a white man. Three-year-old bulls being classified with aged bulls here the winners were Moneyfuffel Lad 1st, Nominee 2nd, and Harry Smith's Abbottsburn 3rd. Thomas Russell had the 1st prize two-year-old bull, and Morgan & Muxion got into 2nd place. In yearling bulls Watt's Toronto winner, The Judge, took the lead, followed by Fairbairn's Dainty Davie for 2nd. In the section for bull calves Mr. Edwards' red and roan were placed 1st and 2nd respectively, and Gibson & Walker, Denfield, furnished a right good roan calf for 3rd place. J. S. Smith's 1st prize calf at Toronto was sold there, and had gone to the College farm at Guelph. The rating in the female sections was practically the same as at Toronto, except that H. & W. Smith's Frieda was given 1st position over Captain Robson's Mysie's Rose. The former is a rarely good one, and it is all the greater honor to beat such an animal. Captain Robson won the open herd prize, and Messrs. Watt the young herd prize.

Herefords.—Mr. H. D. Smith, Compton, Que., had his fine herd here, and appropriated all the prizes he entered for. His herd is unsurpassed by any in the Dominion, and is always admired by visitors at the fairs.

Polled Angus.—The three competing herds were those of Walter Hall (Washington), James Bowman (Guelph), and Wm. Stewart & Son (Lucasville), among whom the prizes were distributed, except the 1st for two-year-old bull, which