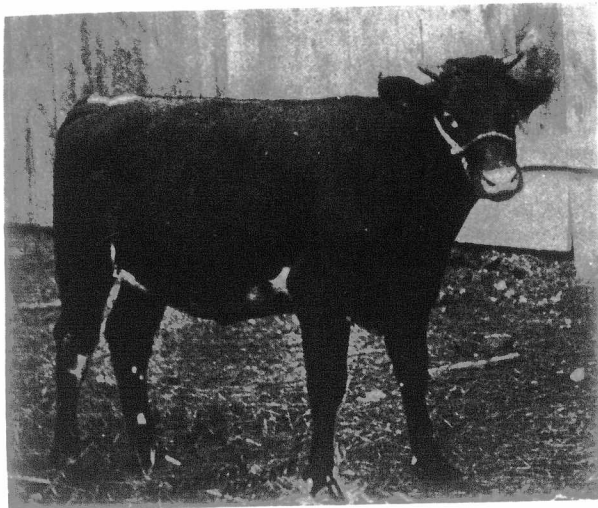


Fall Fairs and Exhibitions.

(By G. C. Creelman, Superintendent Farmers' Institutes, Ontario.)

So many of the fairs in the Province of Ontario have dwindled down to mere horse-racing contests, that it is a pleasure to note this year that many of the best district associations are bestirring themselves in new directions.

In the Ottawa Valley district the fairs have been arranged in consecutive order. Expert judges of live stock have been appointed to go from one fair to another and judge all the live stock. Mr. J. G. Haumer, of Mt. Vernon, the noted Shropshire breeder, judges the sheep; Mr. J. E. Brethour, of Burford, the hogs; and Mr. Robert Ness, of Howick, Que., and Mr. Geo. Gray, of



MISS CAMPBELL 2ND.

Sire Imp. Blue Ribbon = 17095; dam Miss Campbell = 27948, of the Miss Syme family. Shorthorn heifer calf to be sold at the auction sale of the herd of A. & D. Brown, Iona, Ont., November 12th, 1901.

Newcastle, the horses. The appointment of such men assures careful and correct methods of judging. It is expected that this will do away with a lot of local jealousies, and as these men are prepared to give their reasons for the awards before the animals leave the ring, the educational value can hardly be estimated.

MUSKOKA FAIRS.

The Muskoka districts, which are often considered barren wastes by those who have never visited that part of the country, contain many progressive farmers. These farmers are for the most part Old Country men, who have been accustomed to handling good live stock and know a good animal when they see it. This year, at Huntsville, Utterson, Bracebridge, and Gravenhurst, they have asked for an expert judge for dairy stock and dairy products. We were fortunate in securing for them the services of Mr. J. W. Hart, Superintendent of the Kingston Dairy School, and it is not necessary to state that he has given them perfect satisfaction. In some instances the local Farmers' Institutes arranged for a meeting in the evening of the day the fair was held, and Prof. Hart gave them a talk on the dairy industry.

ORILLIA FAIR IN LINE.

We also had an application for expert judges from the directors of the Orillia Fair, as the following clipping from a local paper will show:

"Resolved in everything to be thoroughly up-to-date, the directors decided to give a trial to the new system of judging which is being inaugurated by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. They have applied to Mr. G. C. Creelman, Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes, to supply judges for the cattle, sheep and swine, who will be competent to give practical addresses upon the points which should be found in the various breeds, and he has promised to do so. The judges will also state publicly their reasons for awarding prizes. Properly carried out, this should make the usually rather dull business of judging to be one of the most interesting features of the show. It should, besides, be most instructive, and will be a step in the direction of giving greater educational value to agricultural shows. The directors are to be congratulated on their promptness in taking the matter up and so ensuring that Orillia will be one of the first places to adopt the new system. It is expected that this move will add largely to the exhibits in cattle, sheep, and swine, by adding to the interest taken in these departments."

We secured the services of Mr. D. Drummond, of Myrtle, who last year judged the Ayrshires at

New York State Fair, and was invited to do so again this year, and Mr. R. S. Stevenson, of Ancaster, who judged this year at the Toronto Exhibition and also at the Pan-American. These gentlemen went not only prepared to judge everything on its merits, but also to give their reasons for so doing.

ELMVALE FAIR.

Elmvale is a small town in East Simcoe, that has come to the conclusion that they are going to increase their attendance and improve the conditions of their fall fair, and in order to do so must adopt new methods. They, therefore, secured the services of Mr. R. S. Stevenson, of Ancaster, to judge their live stock on October 9th.

WHITBY MAKES A SPECIALTY OF POULTRY.

Situated as it is, surrounded by one of the best agricultural districts in the Province, great things are expected from the Whitby Fair, and in many features one is not disappointed. For instance, this year the judges of heavy horses were kept busy for five hours judging that class alone, so great were the number of entries in each of the sections. There is also a poultry-fattening station at Whitby, and the people of the south riding of Ontario County are taking a great interest in this business. The directors of the fair, therefore, planned and carried out a poultry demonstration at their show, of which the following report is given:

"The new idea of grafting the Institute system on the fall fairs was put into effect at Whitby, in connection with the Ontario and Durham Counties Exhibition held at Whitby. Supt. Gilbert, of the Poultry Department, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and G. R. Cottrell, of Halton County, a member of the Farmers' Institute lecturing staff, were present for the purpose of giving addresses accompanied by practical demonstrations in connection with the poultry industry. When Messrs. Gilbert and Cottrell began their part of the programme, they found themselves with a moving-picture tent immediately on their right, the main building filled with fancywork on the left, a horse race on the right front, and a brass band within a hundred yards. Notwithstanding all these distractions, the tent in which the poultry lectures and demonstrations were given was filled to the full by people who paid the closest attention to everything that was said and done. Many ladies were present. The women of the farm evidently appreciate the fact that poultry is coming to mean for them even more than cows meant a few years ago, in the way of providing ready money for the household expenses."

HOW TO INTEREST THE BOYS AT THE FAIRS.

Mr. Barlow Cumberland, who has taken a great interest in Institute matters generally in Durham County, has this year suggested a unique method of interesting the boys in their local fair, offering prizes to boys who could properly label the greatest number of apples. The following clipping from a local paper explains the conditions:

"Hope Fair, October 1st and 2nd.—The following is a letter that has been sent to the teachers of each school in the township of Hope, and speaks for itself:

"Duntain, Port Hope, Sept. 23, 1901.

"Dear Sir,—I would be much obliged if you would bring to the attention of the boys in your school the prizes for the judging of apples which will be given at our Agricultural Exhibition at Port Hope, on Wednesday, October 2nd, next. The contest is open to boys from 10 to 16 years of age, resident in the township of Hope or in Port Hope. A number of varieties of apples will be mixed together. The contestants will each come in alone, and then, in the presence of the judges, pick out the apples that they know, naming the varieties and grading the quality—Best, Good, or Poor. Marks will be given, 70 for correct naming of varieties and 30 for judging the quality. The contest will take place on October 2nd. Boys will enter their names and addresses at the Secretary's office on the grounds before 1.30 p. m., when they will be given numbered cards. There is no charge for entry. The prizes are—1st, \$3; 2nd, \$2; 3rd, \$1.

"I have given these prizes so that our boys may learn something more about apples. Boys generally know where apples are, but I want them to study the names and judge the varieties that are best for sale. I hope some of your boys will study up the subject and enter for the prizes.

Yours sincerely,

"(Sgd.) Barlow Cumberland."

MILTON FAIR.

We had the pleasure of visiting the Halton County Fair, at Milton, on Friday last, and were particularly gratified with the large entry of horses. The judges were kept busy all afternoon in their several classes, and it was no unusual thing to find 15 to 25 entries in a class.

There was also an executive meeting of the local Farmers' Institute, when plans were formulated for the holding of 16 meetings during the coming fall and winter. Halton has now the largest membership in the Province, numbering 748, and they do not propose to allow this number to diminish during the coming year.

DEATH OF A VALUED LOCAL INSTITUTE WORKER.

Mr. Chas. Lawrence, Secretary West Simcoe Farmers' Institute, Secretary of the Georgian Bay Fruit Growers' Association, and President of the Great Northern Exhibition Association, was killed on Thursday last while leaving the exhibition grounds. His horse took fright at a hand organ, and he was thrown from his buggy, sustaining a fracture of the neck and skull. Death was instantaneous. Mr. Lawrence will be very much missed by the farmers of West Simcoe. He has always been active in all agricultural movements, first in the Grange, then in the Central Farmers' Institute, and ever since in his local Institute, besides being president of his local exhibition for 18 years. A good man has gone to his reward.

Care of the Fall Litter.

The fall pig, as a rule, is not as great a success in the average farmer's hands as is the spring pig. Certain essentials, such as a dry, warm pen and attention to the sow and pigs at birth, must be observed. In this connection it is important that the sow should not be fat and lazy at farrowing time, or her pigs will be laid upon. A help to prevent such an unfortunate contingency is the projecting ledge fastened to the pen walls. A piece 2 x 6 can be used for the purpose of affording a creep under which the young pigs can lie. The first few days after farrowing, the sow should be fed sparingly, or milk fever or garget will ensue, in which case she may refuse to let the pigs nurse, and they will die. Arrange so that sow and pigs can have plenty of exercise, and with plenty of skim milk, middlings or shorts, the pigs will make rapid growth. Some farmers wean at six weeks; we prefer eight weeks as the time. The important point in giving exercise to the sow and young pigs, is that by so doing that plague of the pig-breeder—thumps—will be avoided. If they get plenty of exercise, the food allowance can be all that they will take after the pigs are a week or ten days old. A box with a mixture of ashes and salt should be accessible at all times to the pigs, and a few sods as well. Keep the pigs growing right along, and don't limit their exercise until a few weeks before they are to go to the block. Kitchen refuse can be used with profit, unless highly charged with soap or lye, in which event poisoning of the pigs would be likely to ensue. A good practice to follow with the young pigs soon after birth is to break off their tusks, in order to avoid tearing of the sow's teats, in which event her udder might get sore and she would refuse to let the young pigs nurse.



COTSWOLD EWE.

First-prize two-year-old and sweepstakes at Western Fair, London, 1901.

BRED AND OWNED BY T. HARDY SHORE & SONS, GLANWORTH, ONT.

Clean Fairs Wanted.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—The Civic Committee acknowledges receipt of the "Farmer's Advocate" of Sept. 15th and Oct. 1st, containing most valuable editorials in behalf of the clean agricultural fair. The wide-open fair is passing into history, and such valuable journals as the "Farmer's Advocate" have largely secured this desirable end.

Very respectfully,

EBEN BUMSTEAD,

Sec'y Civic Committee.

Boston, Mass., Oct. 5th, 1901.