

Mr. Levi Pike's Herd of Yorkshire, Berkshire and Suffolk Swine.

On our front page illustration for this issue are portrayed specimens of three of the leading breeds of swine, which are destined in the future, as in the past, to play their part in working out the problem of cheap production, and also with the equally necessary essential of advancing the quality of the pork products of the country; both of which have so much to do with the success of the swine industry and the welfare of the farming community. The barrow in the foreground is Markham Baron, which distinguished himself by winning first in his class at the Guelph Fat Stock Show, and the further honor of winning sweepstakes over all entries of every breed, age or sex at the same show. This was a phenomenally grand pig, not only in his weight for age, which was 575 pounds in 330 days, but he was exceptionally smooth, displaying wonderful quality, while his development in ham, his length and depth of side, lightness of shoulder, fine bone and light offal, freedom from superfluous fat about the neck and jowl, brought him nearer the acme of perfect porcine development than anything we ever saw on exhibition, while he carried out Yorkshire character to perfection. Bringing out such specimens as this at our shows will do more toward making the breed popular than all the written encomiums that can be passed around. Mr. Pike bred and fed this pig himself, and it is but justice to give him credit for his skill.

The pig standing facing the barrow is Markham Maiden, a beautiful young sow of marked quality. She has great length and depth of side, full flank, with well set down hams, typical Yorkshire head. She was sired by the Walker Jones boar, Imported Kinicroft Hero. Her dam being Markham Pride.

The Berkshire sow, Markham Lass 5th, is a neat specimen of this popular breed. She was sired by Baron -2059-, which boar was bred by J. G. Snell & Bro., Edmonton; dam Markham Lass 2228.

The Suffolk sow in the back-ground is Markham Countess. She was sired by Surprise 861, dam See Me 140, both tracing direct to importations from Lord Ellesmere's noted herd in England.

Thus our illustration not only serves to illustrate the very excellent specimens of their respective breeds that are kept in this herd, but gives a capital idea of the relative points of usefulness that skilled breeders have developed in the most improved types of these truly popular sorts.

In this herd the Improved Large Yorkshires are bred in the greatest numbers, and in these the most popular strains have been selected. The herds of Walker Jones and Sanders Spencer have both been drawn upon for a breeding foundation, and the fact that they have been properly mated is borne testimony to by the very excellent specimens bred in the herd. At the time of our visit, early in January, we were strongly impressed with a remarkably good pen of five sows. These were sired by such noted boars as Kinicroft Hero and Markham Physician, and from the sows Markham Baroness, Kate 113, Markham Lass 581, and Markham Pride 13. A splendid young boar farrowed in September had made a wonderful growth, and promises to be equal to anything yet produced.

A litter of beautiful pigs farrowed October 28th struck us as having the best of good care, for although the weather was of the most trying description for weaning pigs, they appeared to be in the most flourishing condition. Another boar farrowed in May, and sired by Markham Physician, gave promise of making an extra breeding pig.

Among the Yorkshires that have been sold and have been giving good accounts of themselves are a pair consisting of a boar and sow under twelve months that won first throughout the shows held at Richmond, Sherbrooke and Montreal, P. Q., and two boars under six months that won first and second at the Toronto Industrial.

Several useful Berkshire sows are kept for breeding. Of these Markham Lass 2228 is a nicely formed, straight sow of good length; another is Kathleen, a useful sort. The boar mostly used is Baron, before mentioned, which appears to have been a successful sire.

The Suffolks appear to be especial favorites of Mr. Pike's. Of these a number of them are capital specimens of the breed, and show all the good points of this easy keeping sort, and as before mentioned, are descended from Lord Ellesmere's celebrated herd, which gained the honor of winning sweepstakes at the Centennial in 1876.

The following is the comparative standing in point of numbers of the herd of sows that have been selected to breed pigs for the coming season:—Seven Yorkshires, two Berkshires and six Suffolks. The herd is at a convenient point for railway privileges, and is easily reached by the C. P. R., the Locust Hill station of which is within a mile of the farm. The Markham station on the G. T. R. is about three miles, thus enjoying convenience for shipping equal to any breeding establishment that we can call to mind.

The Toronto Spring Stallion Show.

The Seventh Annual Provincial Spring Stallion Show, which was held in the Drill Shed, Toronto, on the 8th and 9th of March, is conceded to have been quite equal to any of its predecessors. Although there was an appreciable falling off in the Clydesdale classes, the extra representatives of the other breeds made up for this deficiency, and thus brought the total number of horses on exhibition up to that of former years. In the undeniable quality and individual merit of the horses brought out this year, together with the admirable condition in which they were shown, we may chronicle a substantial advance. The attendance of visitors was also quite up to former years, and in this particular the available space was fully occupied, and taxed the capacity of the building to the utmost.

The show opened by calling in the stallions, four-year-old and upwards, in the carriage and coaching class, with Mr. Wm. Gibson, Buffalo, officiating as judge. There were fifteen entries in this section, in which Thos. Irving's (Winchester) Imp. Prince Arthur (1852), Yorkshire Coach Book, foaled in 1880, was placed first. This horse has developed remarkably since last fall; he is a capital specimen of this popular breed; very handsome; is a neat, clever mover, and to him was also given the sweepstakes for the best horse of any age in the class. A. C. McMillan's (Erin) Shining Light was placed second. He was in fine condition, but evidently had suffered from his trip on the cars, as he had not his usual gay action for which he is so much admired. Lowes Bros.' (Brampton) Stanton King, by Gen. Stanton, won third premium. C. J. Hughson's (Orono) Sir Roger Tichbourne, by last spring's prize-winner, Chenau, won fourth. Very highly commended went to Thomas Oliver's (Brantford) Crown Prince Fifth, and highly commended to H. C. Dunn & Beckett's (Hamilton) Invader.

In stallions rising three the red was sent to Peacock, a beautiful colt, sired by Shining Light, and owned by Matthew Howson, Ash Grove, Ont. Prince Victor, by Prince Alexander, exhibited by his owner, W. C. Brown, Meadowville, was second, and Top Gallant 2nd, by Imp. Top Gallant, owned by Peter McDiarmid, Pickering, was given third prize.

STANDARD BRED ROAD STALLIONS were out in goodly numbers, there being ten entries brought before Dr. Willoughby, Colbourne, who did duty as judge. John McIntyre, Komoka, was first with the neat little horse Proteus, by Balaklava 1853, which decision was not endorsed by the common consent of the onlookers, as Kidd Bros.' (Listowel) Oliver Wilkes, by Brown Wilkes, was decidedly a better individual, which the judge himself acknowledged, but at the same time threw him back on account of an alleged weakness in his dam's breeding, or, in other words, thoroughbred blood in the trotter. However, this same mare produced another good one in Oliver K. 2.16. Then where the weakness, as Oliver Wilkes, in addition to having sired several good ones himself, has most brilliant action, and has size and beauty of form in a high degree—all the most desirable points in breeding harness horses? The third prize was sent to Robt. Porteus' (Simcoe) The Wasser, by Gen. Washington.

The stallions foaled subsequent to 1890 prizes were awarded in the following order:—First, Benj. Martin, Binbrook, Ont., Binbrook 13361; bay, hind feet white; foaled in 1890; sire, Superior 3780; dam, Binbrook May, by Highland Bay 1320, etc. Second, The Cedars Breeding Stables, Eglinton, Ont., Judge Mumford 13630; chestnut; foaled in 1890. Bred at the Herndon Stock Farm, Clarksville, Tenn., U. S.; sire, Sir Benton 8003; dam, Annapolis Girl, by Young Sentinel 950, etc.

THOROUGHBRED HORSES, foaled previous to 1890, made a magnificent display. Of the fifteen entries, twelve were brought into the ring to bear inspection under Mr. Rody Pringle, which judge sent W. H. Millman's (Woodstock) Imp. Dandie Dimmount, by Silvia, premier honors, a decision which was probably in accord with men of racing proclivities, as he has won in some good events in England, and the fact of his having sired the long-priced Ajax gave additional spur to his popularity with this class of onlookers; but for crossing with the object of getting saeable horses, Dandie is a trifle under size. To Mr. Fuller's (Woodstock) Wyndham, by Warwick, was sent the blue ribbon, which was a fairly consistent decision, as Wyndham is a horse of good racing type, in addition to which he has plenty of size. He is a useful horse, showing good breeding character, and should be altogether a most desirable horse in the stud. The third premium was given to Quin & Carter's (Brampton) Wiley Buckles, by Imp. London. What we previously said concerning this horse we must again reiterate. He has not only great size and immense substance, but he has any amount of quality to boot, while his wonderful finish above has not been equalled in late years' show rings. However, in his case the decision of placing him third in his class was qualified by giving him sweepstakes for the stallion best calculated to sire high-class hunters and harness horses. If the case was properly understood, it is for utility that our shows are encouraging horses, and not for siring race horses; and in behalf of the interests of breeding, the quicker judges are made to understand the position the better. S. B. Fuller's (Woodstock) Goldfellow won fourth premium. He is a large horse, that should be especially useful in siring harness horses, while a very ordinary specimen was placed fifth, leaving out in the cold a number of superior horses.

HACKNEYS.

The number of entries in this class was most disappointing; only two came forward to represent each age. Robt. Beith & Co.'s (Bowmanville) Imp. Jubilee Chief, by Pilot, dam Queen of the Forest, by Fireaway, was an easy outstanding first, and was going better than at any previous occasion, and it was the general remark that he was in the best form possible. R. Welbourn's (Orangeville) Lightning (imp.), by Thorndale Star, dam by Denmark, was placed second.

In Hackney stallions, foaled subsequent to 1890, Robt. Beith & Co.'s Ottawa, by Lord Derwent 2nd, and imported in his dam, the beautiful mare Mayflower, by Highflyer, was first. He is now a handsome colt, and has made a wonderful improvement during the winter, and now shows the most brilliant action forward, and also goes very well behind. Although only half educated, there is no Hackney to-day in Ontario that has the promise he has, and for him we predict many honors in the future, while his breeding is in the most fashionable lines. He was also awarded sweepstakes over his stable companion, Jubilee Chief, a decision that met the hearty approval of the majority of the visitors. Mr. Irving, of Winchester, showed a very neat, good colt in the newly imported Kilwick Fireaway, by Lord Swanland dam, by Trip-Away, and to him was awarded second premium.

SHIRE HORSES.

Heretofore those interested in this breed have not displayed a willingness to bring out their horses at the spring show, but through an advance in the prizes offered for this show a much better display was made this year. Of the eight horses which were brought in to be inspected by Dr. J. Y. Ormsby, Danville, P. Q., there appeared to be quite a close contest. At all events, they were in much better form than Shire men have been in the habit of exhibiting their horses. H. George & Sons (Crampton), gained first with Imp. Lennox, by Triton, a nicely turned horse, which, although not the heaviest in the ring, was clearly the most evenly balanced in all his points. Imported Mirfield Merchant, by Conqueror, owned by Wm. Maltby, Laurel, Ont., was a strong second. He was a heavier horse, with better Shire character, but was not as good a mover as the former horse. To the old prize-winner, King of the Castle, now eleven years old, imported by J. Gardhouse & Sons, was sent the third premium. He is standing his years remarkably well, and made a strong fight for a higher place. Highly commended was sent to Francis Coleman's (Hill's Green) British Lad, by imported Farmer's Glory, and commended to John Ireland's (Kleinburg) Sir John Welsh. But one colt rising three was brought out. This was a neat (imported in dam) horse named Cock Robin, by Game Cock. He is owned by Wm. Mullin, Hillsburg, and his dam was imported by Ormsby & Chapman. Lennox was given the sweepstakes.

CANADIAN BRED CLYDESDALES.

foaled previous to January, 1890, were a neat, good, useful lot. They had not the scale of imported horses, but were clean limbed and handsomely formed. P. Kelly's (Breechin) Pride of Dollar was again placed first, and well he deserved the honor; second, Anthony Inson's (Wexford) Tom of Wexford [1600]; third, John & James A. Boag's (Queensville) Ben Bolt [1326]; 4th, Wm. Martin's (Ida) Prince Welcome [472]. Canadian bred Clydesdale stallions, foaled in 1890:—First, H. H. Spencer's (Brooklin) Gay Lad; second, R. J. Henderson's (Yelverton) Prince Oliver; third, James McCartney's (Thamesford) McGinty; fourth, W. Crawford & Son's (Brown's Corners) New Style. V. H. C., Chas. Bennett's (Iris) Honest Joe. H. C., John McPherson's (Brougham) Pickering Laddie. Canadian bred Clydesdale stallions, foaled subsequent to 1st Jan., 1891:—First, John W. Crowie's (Claremont) Brown John; second, Charles Bennett's (Iris) Hero; third, Alex. Doherty's (Ellesmere) Glen Burnie Boy. Sweepstakes—Best Canadian bred Clydesdale stallion, any age, given by the Industrial Exhibition Association—Pride of Dollar.

IMPORTED CLYDESDALES.

The ring of aged Clydesdales was numerically weaker than we have seen it for several years, twelve of the fourteen entries being all that faced Mr. Robert Ness, of Howick, P. Q., who had previously been chosen to tie the ribbons. However, what was lacking in numbers was fully made up in individual merit, for never since the Spring Stallion show was inaugurated have the horses of this class been brought out in such superb condition, and never has there been as close competition. After the preliminary walk and trot of each of these horses up and down the sanded bridge path, prepared to counteract the treacherous slippery blocking which composed the floor of the Drill Shed, a short leet of four was drawn, including Graham Bros.' (Claremont) Queen's Own, by Prince of Wales; D. & O. Sorby's (Guelph) Grandeur, by Darnley; Robt. Davies' (Todmorden) Energy, by Macgregor; Robt. Beith & Co.'s Sir Walter, by Bold Maghie. And now the real work of the contest began. Each of these horses, with the single exception of Grandeur, had won first and sweepstakes at several previous shows; each was in the pink of condition, and each was the admiration of the visitors. Over and over again the remark was heard among the professional horsemen that they could not have believed that such an improvement could have been effected over the apparent faultless form of last season's show, yet it was there all the same. Not only was there a substantial gain in