

# The London Fair a Farmer's Fair

## Agricultural Exhibits of a High Order—Close Competition in Live Stock—Some Improvements Suggested

THE tendency of the larger fairs of America is to place greater and greater emphasis on industrial exhibits. This is as it should be, for industrial production is expanding and to truly represent the life of the people urban industries must be represented. Of all our great fairs, however, London comes as near to being a farmers' fair as any in Eastern Canada. This, too, is as it should be. London is right in the heart of the richest agricultural section of Canada. It is near the centre of a very important live stock area. In every direction the soil is rich and the great number of farmers' cars at the fair bore testimony to the fact that farmers, as a class, are prosperous. The London fair caters to the greatest industry of Western Ontario—agriculture. And it draws a truly wonderful showing of agricultural and live stock products.

There is room for improvement, however, especially in the live stock sections. In some respects exhibitors have been treating the fair better than the fair has been treating them. The live stock buildings are antiquated and almost unsanitary. This is an improvement, however, that can very well wait until after the war. In the matter of judging accommodation and arrangement there is room for immediate improvement.

The ring provided for live stock is altogether inadequate. The present ring provides room for properly judging and displaying one breed, or two breeds at the outside. This year, as in previous years, there were six breeds crowded in at once. When the group classes came in the ring was so crowded that the animals could hardly be moved around. The judges did not have a proper chance to see their classes, and ring-riders had no chance whatever of following placings. This, combined with lack of seating accommodation, probably explained the absence of ring-riders. There is room at this farmers' fair for a good ring and a covered stand for spectators. Now that automobiles are not parked on the grounds the room is available.

Another improvement would be an extension of the judging over several days. This year a few light horses were judged on Monday and then all the dairy and beef cattle and heavy horses were "jammed" through on Tuesday. This imposes a severe load on the exhibitors. Probably more interest would attach itself to the judging, too, if only a couple of breeds were taken in a day and the horse judging might very well be spread over several days.

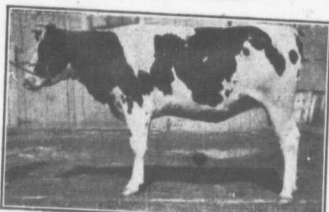
### The Horse Exhibit.

What will be the place of the light horse in the days to come? A couple of years ago prophets were relegating them to the scrap heap. But prophecy is always a dangerous business and it has proven so in this case. With the automobile not taking the place of the high-class driving or carriage horse, horse lovers are seeing to that. At Toronto this year there was an excellent showing of light horses, and London had one of the best showings in several years. This applied to carriage, roadster and thorough-bred classes.

Heavy horses were an excellent showing, though in some classes there were hardly sufficient entries to make real strong competition. Clydesdales were decidedly most numerous. The Canadian-bred classes were particularly good, and here, if anything, was the stiffer competition. The sweepstakes stallion

in the open class was shown by Andrew B. Erskine, Parkhill. The sweepstakes female, open class, was owned by A. Watson & Son, Forest. "Colonel Bowers," champion at Guelph last winter, was again champion Canadian-bred stallion, exhibited by T. McMichael, Seaforth. G. W. Knott, also of Seaforth, had the champion Canadian-bred mare in his Lady Wanda. Carrie Bros., Denfield, had stallion and three of his get, while pair of Clydes in harness went to W. W. Hogg, Thamesford.

An encouraging feature of the Percheron classes at the fair this year, is the larger proportion of females in the total entries. It is only a few years since the Percheron exhibit meant stallions. The female classes now proclaim that the breed has been put in Canadian soil. At London, Percherons were not numerous, but the sexes were well divided. There were six stallions out in the mature class, first going to T. J. Berry, Hensall. This horse was also grand champion in stallions of the breed. H. C. Solden, Hensall, had the first four-year-old brood mare, and Harold & Ratz, Tavistock, won the championship on their three-year-old mare.



The First Prize Junior Yearling.

Forest Ridge Payne Polly, exhibited by L. H. Lipsett, Stratfordville, Ont., won out in one of the strongest as well as largest classes of the breed at Toronto.

### Beef Cattle.

Beef cattle were both numerous and good, and the classes would compare favorably with corresponding classes at Toronto; at least, the best of the Toronto judging of these classes was the almost total reversal of Toronto placings in some breeds. The animals were apparently showing the same bloom at both fairs. Does this indicate a lack of definite standards for the breeds in question or is it the failure of judges to properly interpret breed standards? Certainly faira lose in educational value when placings lack uniformity.

In Shorthorns, the largest strings were shown by J. J. Elliott, Guelph; J. E. Barron, Carberry, Man., and Kyle Bros., Drumbo. Jno. Guardhouse & Sons, Tom Robinson, London, and Harry Smith, Hay, showed in addition to the stock coming from Toronto. The grand champion male was a senior calf, shown by Guardhouse. Reserve was Robinson's Belmont Beau, a two-year-old bull. The grand champion female was Rosa Hope 2nd, the two-year-old heifer

of Elliott's; reserve, Barron. Elliott won the graded Barron, 3, Robinson.

The Aberdeen-Angus line-up was much the same as at Toronto, the Champion heifer being mislaid, but with Col. McEwan, of London, as a new exhibitor, Toronto decisions were reversed. Jas. Bowman, Guelph, LeRoy, The female championship went to Larkin Farms, Queenston, on their aged cow. On the whole the money was pretty well distributed among these and the other exhibitors.—Jno. Love, Elora; McEwan and H. Fraleigh, of Forest. "It was the best exhibit of Angus I have seen on the show circuit," said Mr. Lowe.

In Herefords, all the Toronto herds were on hand with the exception of Mr. Readhead of Milton. Mr. Reynolds, of Elora, was an addition with some very well-titled cattle. O'Neil Bros., Denfield, had more entries than at Toronto, so that competition was grand champion male on his three-year-old, a son of last year's champion. The female championship went to the same herd on mature cow.

### Sheep and Swine.

The sheep pens were well filled with the pick of the Toronto stock, and much of the money went to the best Toronto winners. Shropshire competition was limited to W. H. Beatty, Winton Grove, and Jno. R. Kelsey, Woodville, Kelsey getting somewhat the best of the argument. In Dorset Horned, the champion ram was shown by C. Stobbs, Leamington, who also had the best ewe. Other exhibitors were W. E. Wright & Son, Guelph; J. F. Robertson, Hornby, and M. H. Stafford & Son, Shedden. Three Stallions; Telfer Bros., Paris, and Peter Arkell & Sons, Teeswater. Jas. Bowman, Guelph, showed a few Suffolks. Arkell had the most of the Oxfordshire, with a competitor in Karl Broadfoot, Allenford. Robt. McEwan, London, had the best of the argument with Balfour Robinson, Wheatley, in Southdowns.

The Cotswold championships both went to N. Park, Norwich, with Chas. J. Shore, Guelph, the only competitor. Leicester competition was confined to Jno. Kelly & Son, Shakespeare, who had the champion ram; and A. & W. Whitelaw, Guelph, with champion ewe, and Jas. Snell, Chilton. Cecil Stobbs was alone with Lincolns.

The swine pens were fairly well filled with quality entries, but London has seen larger shows. In Berkshires, Adam Thompson, Stratford, got practically all the money in competition with F. Stevenson and W. W. Brownridge. Yorkshire competition was exceedingly limited. Jno. Duck, of Port Credit, getting almost all the money in competition with a few head exhibited by Henry Capes, Wyoming. In Tamworths, D. Douglas & Sons, Mitchell, were ahead, with J. W. Tidd, Corinth, also showing—and Mr. Tidd had some good ones.

Chester Whites were among the most numerous in point of entries. W. E. Wright & Son, Guelph, won the best of the argument from Henry Capes and W. Collins, St. Thomas. Byron Robinson, Wheatley, was alone with Hampshires. He had a good string out. Poland Chinas were more numerous, probably, than those who value Canada's reputation for choice

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The Business End of the Class for Mature Ayrshire Cows at Toronto. Who would not be Satisfied with this Bunch? First of the right is Harryholm White Rosie 2nd; 2nd, Chapman Henry, last year's grand champion; 3rd, Carleton Baronesse, all owned by R. R. Ness, Howick, Que.; 4th, Dairy of Springfield 3rd, A. S. Turner & Sons, Ryckmans Corners, Ont.; 5th, Hume's August Kate, Alex. Burns & Co., Campbellford, Ont. So strong was the class that the cow in seventh place, owned by J. L. Stansell, might have won first in good company.—All photos by editors of Farm and Dairy.