



A general view of the Swedish National Show Grounds

## Our English Letter

### The Swedish National Agricultural Show—The Live Stock and Dairy Display

It has lately been my privilege to form one of a small party of agricultural journalists who on the joint invitation of the Swedish Government and the Swedish National Agricultural Society had an opportunity of seeing for themselves the farming operations of Sweden. The party, who spent a fortnight on this pleasant task, had an unique opportunity of seeing the agriculture of the major part of Scandinavia, were under the guidance of Mr. F. Bagge, the Swedish Commissioner in London, and of Professor Petersson, of Ultuna College, Upsala, and to these gentlemen I am largely indebted for the particulars which I hope to lay before my readers.

The first item in the program was a three days visit to the Swedish National Agricultural Show, a fixture which is held every five years, and always at a different centre. The show took place at Norrköping (pronounced Norchipping) from July 2 to 9, and it proved to be a great success. It was opened by King Oscar in person, who displays as much interest in agriculture as does our own most gracious monarch.

The prize money and show expenses are guaranteed jointly by the national Government and by the provinces, but this year there was no need to make any call upon any such sources, as the attendances have left a handsome profit on the exhibition. On the opening day 2,262 persons paid the sum of 5 kroner for admission (a kroner is worth roughly 27 cents), while on one other day the figures reached 30,000 at a kroner each. The last day of the show, it may be mentioned, admission was only 50 ore, or under 14 cents each.

The catalogue itself is more or less a puzzle to an English-speaking person, but what most particularly strikes the visitor is the fact that Sweden is almost entirely dependent upon other nations for her breeds of stock as well as for agricultural implements.

Horses are given the first place, and the object aimed at is the provision of army remounts, for which Thoroughbred stallions are in most demand, many of which are imported from England.

Cattle are almost entirely confined to Ayrshires and Dutch, with an occasional representative of another breed. The Ayrshires are of good quality, although not quite satisfying the requirements of a Scotsman, as they are apt to get a bit leggy and lose that fine drawn milking character so much sought after. The Dutch cattle are descended from some of the best strains imported from Holland, and, if anything, they seem best fitted to the needs of the country. There is but one Swedish breed yet remaining pure, and these are known as Hill cattle, being small and white in color, with occasionally a few black spots upon them.

There was only a small number of sheep exhibited, and these, with few exceptions, were rams imported from England. Sheep are not much kept as the rigours of the climate render it necessary to house them for seven months out of the twelve. The most popular breed of pigs were the large white, and much English blood is in general use.

The dairy section was not large, the chief new invention being a treadle appliance to assist the manual working of the separator. Pisciculture, forestry, and natural history all

receive attention, and not the least interesting feature was the erection of a model holding, strictly limited as to cost. The holding was complete in every structural detail. The government lends money up to a certain sum for a period of from ten to twenty years. The limit of cost of a steading such as this is 6,000 kr., equivalent to about \$1,650. The Government will not lend more. After ten years have expired the money must be paid back again. The house was furnished in detail, and was a four-roomed wooden structure. The barn, or steading, has room for three sheep and three cows. A manure tank is furnished and attached to the manure pit under cover is accommodation for the pig. There is also a separate granary raised from the ground on piles to prevent the ingress of rats. The small holdings question is by no means confined to England, and it was interesting to see what other countries are doing to combat the increasing tendency of herding together in towns.

In the poultry section many of our popular English breeds could be seen, about the most numerous being the White Leghorn and the Plymouth Rock, while the different varieties of the Wyandotte were well represented. The implement section was almost entirely occupied by American machinery, and the extent to which this section was monopolized by Yankee machines was remarkable.

A. W. S.

### Stay by Ontario

Speaking of the Western craze to the *Globe's* special correspondent, and the fact that families are leaving the farms of Ontario for the west, Mr. John Campbell, Woodville, Ont., says:

"It is nothing short of a disgrace that families in Bruce, Huron and other counties are leaving the farms for the west. I heard of a man in Bruce with 300 acres of land as well as a bank account who sold his farm and purchased 1,200 acres of prairie. What greater folly can a man commit? He will become land poor. He hear from the west of one that has become wealthy, but we do not hear of the 99 who remain poor. Many have gone out there with seven or ten thousand dollars, and they haven't half of it now. A comparison of one hundred or even a thousand Ontario acres with any equal amount in North America will result in favor of Ontario, both in regard to wealth production and comfort. There isn't today a country anywhere that is better situated to stand depression or hard times than this same Ontario. Nine years ago there were hard times and in six months all had changed. I think as much of the west as any person, perhaps, but I do not believe in glorifying the west at the expense of Ontario."



Judging horses in the big ring.



A Dutch bull and his herdsman, who is riding, as is the custom of the country.