

on Tuesday morning, so that the exhibitors would not be harassed by being always on the alert to find out when the judging would begin.

The following officers were elected for the present year:

John Dryden, M. P. P., Brooklin, president. Vice-Presidents—Richard Gibson, Delaware, Ontario; Hon. D. Ferguson, M. P. P., Charlottetown, P. E. I.; J. H. Ladner, Ladner's Landing, B. C.; J. S. Williams, Knowdon, Quebec; J. E. Fairweather, New Brunswick; James Geddes, Calgary, N. W. T.; Prof. Geo. Lawson, Halifax, N. S.; G. L. Smellie, Binscarth, Man.

Executive Committee—A. list—Edward Jeffs, Bondhead; Francis Green, sr., Innerkip; Jas. Hunter, Alma; T. Russell, Exeter; John I. Hobson, Mosborough. B. list—David Rea, Fergus; A. R. Gordon, Cooksville; J. L. Cowan, Galt; James Tolton, Walkerton; Wm. Linton, Aurora. C. list—Arthur Johnston, Greenwood; James Russell, Richmond Hill; James I. Davidson, Balsam; Thos. Shaw, Guelph; C. M. Simmons, Ivan.

At the afternoon session a paper was read by Prof. Shaw on "Adaptability of the Short-horns." Mr. John Dryden read a paper, prepared by Mr. Richard Gibson, of Delaware, on "Fancies and Fallacies v. Experience in Cattle." Papers were handed in for publication by Mr. C. M. Simmons, of Ivan, and Mr. Wm. Linton, of Aurora.

It was moved by Mr. John Morgan, and unanimously resolved, that the thanks of the Shorthorn breeders is due to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for taking up the matter of the proposed two weeks exhibition of stock.

CLYDESDALE ASSOCIATION.

The Secretary, in reading his report, states that they had not recorded quite so many animals as the year previous. There had been entered for the fourth volume of the stud book, 209 stallions, 107 of which were imported, and 280 mares, of which 42 were imported. The Spring Show, as heretofore, would be held on March 12th and 13th, and it is fully expected it will eclipse anything of the kind yet held in this country. The trade of horses had been satisfactory this year. A great many Canadian-bred, as well as imported colts and fillies, had passed across the line at good prices, according to the transfers on their books. Seventy-six males and fifty-two females have gone to the United States, and nine horses and eight mares to the Northwest. No doubt a great many more had gone. This merely gave the transfers in the fourth volume. The importation of Clydesdales into Canada, according to the returns of Great Britain, had been larger than in any previous year, and larger than to the United States.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—

President—Wm. Smith, M. P., Columbus (re-elected).

Vice-Presidents—Ontario—Geo. Moore, Waterloo (re-elected); Quebec—Robt. Ness, Howick (re-elected); Nova Scotia—J. McKay, Stellarton, N. S.; Prince Edward Island—Hon. J. Clow, Charlottetown, P. E. I.; New Brunswick—Hon. D. McLellan, St. John, N. B.; Manitoba—J. E. Smith, Brandon, Man. (re-elected); British Columbia—H. D. Benson, Ladner's Landing, B. C. (re-elected).

Directors—Robert Miller, Brougham; Robert Graham, Claremont; Robert Beith, Bowmanville; Arthur Johnston, Greenwood; G. Davidson, Cherrywood; D. McCrae, Guelph; A. Russell, Unionville.

Dear Sir,—Yours of the 16th came duly to hand, for which please accept my thanks. I consider your valuable paper worth \$10 per year to anyone interested in farming or stock-raising.

JOHN PARKER, Stamford, Ont.

The fact stands out plainly that more wool and mutton are absolutely necessary to supply the demand, and there is every prospect that prices for both will be remunerative to farmers for some time to come. Soil and climate, together with the extensive ranges of high hills, have fitted few other places as well as this country to be natural wool and mutton producing sections. Many farms might profitably support ten times the number of sheep that they now do.

The Flock Prize at the Late Provincial Exhibition.

Not being very well posted in regard to the merits of the different breeds of sheep, I would like a little information in regard to what constitutes a good general purpose sheep for the Canadian farmer to raise. I find that for the special prize offered by J. S. Pearce & Co., at the last Provincial Fair, held in London, for the best general purpose flock of sheep, wool and mutton combined, there were four competitors, and only one of those flocks was a Canadian-bred one, the other three being imported from Great Britain. The prize was awarded to the Cotswolds by the judges appointed for that purpose. Now, I would like to know very much why! Was it on account of the superior quality of wool and mutton of the Cotswolds? or had quantity everything to do with it and quality nothing? or did the judges consider that the Cotswolds were superior to any of the other three breeds for crossing upon the common sheep of the country? I suppose they must have thought so, or they could not have awarded them the prize as being the best general purpose flock of sheep. We find that at present there is a very large and good paying trade carried on by the farmers of Ontario in breeding and feeding lambs for the American market. Now, there is not, I am bound to say, more than one farmer out of every two or three hundred who import and breed pure bred sheep of any kind: therefore, the great bulk of the farmers must breed solely for wool and mutton to sell in the best market offered them. Now, it seems to me that if the decision given by the judges at London was a right decision, then the farmers of Ontario who breed lambs for the American market should use Cotswold rams upon the common ewes of the country. Certainly they should if the Cotswold sheep are the best general purpose sheep, and if they are, why is it that the great majority of the farmers are so long about finding it out? and why do not our extensive buyers and shippers of lambs to the American markets advise the farmers with whom they deal to use more extensively Cotswold rams? I am aware that some years ago the Cotswold sheep were very popular owing to the great demand for them in the United States, but of late years that demand has ceased to a very great extent. A great many of those who formerly bred Cotswolds are now raising other breeds instead. There is one thing that has struck me as being rather remarkable and that is, most of the Cotswolds shown at our large fairs every year are imported from England; seldom do we see a flock of Canadian-bred Cotswolds exhibited. Now, if they are the best general purpose sheep for Canada, why is it necessary to cross the Atlantic every summer to obtain a respectable flock of them to show at our large fairs? Does that very successful breeder of Leicester sheep (Mr. John Kelly) find it necessary to cross the Atlantic every season to get a respectable looking flock of Leicesters to exhibit? I am told he doesn't find it necessary. But even in England I am informed the Cotswolds are not very popular outside of their native hills (The Cotswold Hills), and in Scotland I believe they are not bred at all. So as I find they are not so very popular after all in England, not raised at all in Scotland, and have lost their popularity to a very great extent both in Canada and the United States, I must say that I am a little dubious about the decision given by the judges at London being a right one. Yours respectfully,

ONE INTERESTED IN SHEEP RAISING.

[The judges will please reply.]—Ed.

Chatty Letter from the States.

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

Best beeves, \$5.25; best porkers, \$4.15; best muttons, \$5.75; best draught horses, \$240. Such are the prices for the very best kinds of stock in Chicago. It will be seen that sheep are the highest on the list, and that horses are next. Considering all grades of stock, however, producers just now are making more money out of mutton raising than anything else, and more out of hog raising than out of either cattle or horses. The top price for hogs is not high, but the bottom price is not low, which cannot be said of any other kind of stock. In other words, the hogs have been selling with very few exceptions lately at \$3.90 to \$4.00, a very narrow range, while the bulk of the cattle have been selling at about \$3.50 to \$3.75, while the bulk of the horses have sold at about \$125 per head.

Prices for the leading grades of live stock and for nearly all kinds of farm produce are the lowest they have been in years.

The weather during the winter has been so uncommonly mild that the farmers have not used more than half of the ordinary amount of feed, while taking the whole country over they had twice as much as usual to start with.

At the same time there has been a shameful waste of material by marketing half fat cattle and some that were not fattened at all. One would naturally think, that with a mild winter, when every pound of feed would count and the value of all kinds of grain and "roughness" so low, that farmers would at least have put their cattle in good condition, but the fact is, that with an average of about 60,000 cattle per week, Chicago has not had an average of 1,000 ripe cattle per week since the first of the year.

One feeder remarked to the writer that last year he and his neighbors had made ripe cattle on dear corn and lost money heavily by keeping them until thoroughly ripe in May and June, and they did not intend to get caught that way this year. They were turning off the cattle earlier and in comparatively lean condition. In the writer's judgment they aimed well last year and missed it, and this year they are making as great a mistake in the other direction, with their eyes wide open.

"Horses are low," said a dealer. "When you can buy a good sound 1,400-lb. six-year-old horse at \$125 to \$150, it looks very low." Some good blocky mares recently sold here to go to breeders in the extreme north of North Dakota, bordering on the Canadian line; they cost about \$125 to \$150. Dealers report an uncommonly large supply of streeters and inferior horses, which are selling at lower prices by \$20 to \$30 than one year ago. A pair of handsome sixteen hands 2,600-lb. carriage bays sold at \$1,000 to a Denver buyer.

Following are the Chicago horse quotations:—

Description	Poor to Fair	Good to Choice
Draught horses...	\$140 @ 170	\$190 @ 225
Streeters.....	85 @ 90	100 @ 120
Drivers.....	85 @ 100	120 @ 150
General use.....	105 @ 130	145 @ 155
Carriage teams...	325 @ 350	400 @ 450
Saddlers.....	120 @ 170	180 @ 200
Plugs and rangers..	25 @ 40	60 @ 70

The export demand for live cattle is very good. Prices for such cattle are now about the same as a year ago on this side, while in England they are one and a-half cent per pound higher.

Mr. Robert Bickerdick, of Montreal, and Mr. Frederick Pritchard, of London, were here recently. Mr. Pritchard anticipates a better average of cattle prices in British markets this year than last.