

great improvement in the manufacture of this article of food. A capital specimen from the Tweed Factory was also on exhibition. In this connection we may mention that the importance of this branch of trade has induced the people in the vicinity of the town hall, Huntingdon, to commence the erection of a cheese factory adjoining the town hall, three stories high, which will be ready by next spring. The show of grain was good in every respect, as was also that of roots. The latter, considering the season, were remarkably fine, far exceeding those shown at the South Hastings Fair. We were pleased to see that our agriculturists are introducing more extensively labor-saving machines. The show in this respect was decidedly in advance of former years.

**NORFOLK.**—The twenty-fourth annual exhibition of the Norfolk Agricultural Society, which was held on Thursday, Oct. 10th, was highly successful, the number of entries being larger than that of last year, amounting in all to 1157. The show of horses, as usual in this county, was very good, and largely in excess of any previous exhibition. The same remark applies to cattle, the principal breeds being well represented. The number of sheep was smaller than that of last year, though some of the animals shown were very good specimens of their class. The number of swine exhibited was double that of last year, and the improvement in quality was very marked. In grain and seeds, notwithstanding the alleged unfavorable season, the show was very good. There was a falling off in roots, as compared with previous exhibitions. For this the season affords sufficient explanation. The display of horticultural products was also small, but an improvement was manifest in the dairy department, and also in that of agricultural implements.

**NORTH BRANT AGRICULTURAL SHOW.**—We have been favored with quite a long account of this exhibition, but have space for only a brief summary condensed from the *Paris Star*. The show was held on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 8th and 9th October, and proved highly successful. The show of horses was very fine both as regards the number and the excellence of the animals exhibited. Over three hundred horses were on the ground, and the only regret was that they could not be watched passing before the judges, except under very uncomfortable circumstances. The class having the largest number of entries was that of single horses in harness, of which there were forty-one. There were thirty-four saddle horses, seventeen spans of carriage horses, thirteen of farm horses, and seven of heavy draught horses. The show of cattle was very good, as far as numbers were concerned, and there were some splendid animals shown. As a whole they were superior to any that have appeared on the same ground on any previous occasions. There was a very large number of sheep on the ground, and they were equal in quality to any before exhibited. The largest number of entries was of course of Leicesters, of which there were one hundred and three on the ground. The Merinoes were also well represented, there being one hundred on the ground. There were thirty-six entries of Long-Wooled Sheep, and thirty-three of Southdown. The show of pigs was good, especially of small breeds, of which there were thirty-five entries. Judging from the number of specimens shown, the pleasant and profitable occupation of raising poultry is by no means neglected in this county, there being no fewer than one hundred entries in that class; among them many fine birds. There was an excellent show of implements, Mr. Watson, of Ayr, and Messrs. Maxwell & Whitelaw being the principal exhibitors. For the first time the indoor articles of exhibition were collected in a spacious Agricultural Hall, erected for the purpose. Within this building grains, roots, vegetables, fruits, flowers, manufactures of all kinds except carriages and implements, drawings, paintings, and fancy work, found a place. The show in the hall was, in nearly every department, all that could be desired, proving a splendid specimen of the abundant crop with which a bountiful Providence has blessed the country.

### Illinois State Fair.

We condense from the *Western Rural* a brief account of the Illinois State Fair, which was held about two miles east of the city of Quincy, during the first week in October. The exhibition is pronounced to have been, on the whole, the most satisfactory ever held, the number of entries and the receipts exceeding those on any previous occasion. Despite the many hindrances presenting themselves, the officers of the society have abundant reason for self-gratulation.

We would have been better pleased, says the editor of the *Western Rural*, with more stringent regula-

tions, such as would have excluded the gambling operations which were carried on pretty extensively. But these can scarcely be excluded while horse-racing is made the primary feature of the attractions offered to the public, calling as it invariably does all the roughs and gamblers of the region roundabout.

In round numbers, there were of live stock on exhibition the following in the several divisions:—300 cattle, 500 horses, 800 sheep and 500 hogs. Many stalls and pens were erected after the commencement of the fair, and still the pens were not sufficient. In all the classes the quality of the stock was superior.

The show of Short Horns was remarkably large—no less than ten bulls of four years old and upward being entered by as many exhibitors. There were seven herds of this breed entered for competition. Devons, Ayrshires, and Alderneys were also represented. The show of horses was extraordinarily large and extraordinarily good, comprising draught, carriage and other varieties.

The show of sheep was good, the Long-Wools predominating in numbers. Of the Long-Wools, the specimens were mostly from Canada, entered by Wm. Miller and Messrs. Graham & Trywhite, of Canada West. The former had forty-three sheep in his lot, and the latter showed one hundred and twenty, nearly all of them Cotswolds and Leicestershires, more or less mixed.

Spanish Merinoes were well represented by both State and Eastern breeders, and a steady improvement is evidently going forward in the breed, growers looking more to intrinsic merit than the deceptive objects formerly kept prominently in view.

There was a very large representation of Cashmere sheep, by H. W. P. Cramer, of Mendon, and E. H. Clapp, of Rome.

Of hogs the show was actually immense, greater than we have ever before known at a State Fair, and included all breeds, the Berkshire and Chester Whites being shown in large numbers. The committee say that the exhibition of Berkshires was much the largest, and by far the finest they had ever seen, and that the number of first-class animals has probably never been equalled at any exhibition in the United States.

In the principal exhibition building, designated Horticultural Hall, were shown, besides horticultural products, the various other products of the farm, textile fabrics, manufactures, fine arts, entomology, etc., etc. In the decoration of the hall, over 4,000 feet of evergreen wreaths were used, furnished by the ladies of Quincy.

T. McWhorter & Co., of Mercer Co., exhibited 154 named varieties of apples, which, without exception, were the finest ever shown at an Illinois State Fair. They also showed ten new seedlings of their own production. Mr. Chatten, of Adams Co., showed over 100 varieties of apples, 70 varieties of the pear, and a large number of varieties of peaches. G. A. Crawford, of the *Kansas Farmer*, exhibited fifty varieties of Kansas apples, which were very fine, and of course attracted general attention. Mr. C. thinks Kansas is a sure field for apple-growing.

There was an excellent display of implements and agricultural machines, besides the miscellaneous articles which usually form part of these exhibitions.

### Sale of Rams at Kelso.

A CORRESPONDENT has sent us a copy of the *Kelso Mail*, containing a full account of the annual sale of rams which took place at Kelso, and which, as for many years past, was an occasion of considerable interest among stock breeders in the old country. The report is altogether too long for insertion in *THE CANADA FARMER*, but a brief summary, abridged from the *Kelso Mail*, may not be uninteresting, especially to those who hail from Scotland or the North of England. The sales are under the auspices of the Border Union Agricultural Society, and the last was held on 12th of September. The concourse of buyers, sellers, and visitors, though remarkably large, was hardly so great as on some previous occasions, in great measure, because of the harvest. Flockmasters were present from all the neighbouring districts; and there was a strong muster of others from a distance, including many from the Lothians, Dumfriesshire, Peeblesshire, and the North of Scotland. The southern parts of England may be said to have been completely unrepresented, owing to the restrictions still existing in the cattle traffic; but from Northumberland, Cumberland, and the other northern counties that remain partially unhampered by these regulations, there was a large attendance of agriculturists. A good many buyers were also present from Ireland, which always furnishes a large proportion, in consequence of the wide-spread popularity the Border Leicesters have there attained.

In accordance with the usual arrangement, five commodious auction rings were erected on the

ground, each having attached an extensive range of pens, so connected as to enable the rams to be passed under the hammer, and thence into the hands of purchasers, with great order and rapidity.

Business commenced in the various rings at ten o'clock precisely: and the proceedings lasted until close upon six in the evening, the different auctioneers having been engaged the whole time with little or no intermission.

As was the case last year, the best kind of tups were in greatest request, and not only maintained their previous quotations, but largely overtopped them. In general, the averages in other cases show a reduction when compared with those of last year, indicating a very important falling off in the demand. This is attributed almost wholly to the recent depreciation in sheep stock, which had reached an extraordinary high but artificial and temporary maximum during the excitement of 1865 and the later years of the American war, and since then has been coming down to a more natural and healthy level.

The Mertoun lot, which has headed the sales since 1859, was again the great attraction of the gathering, and once more asserted its time-honoured prestige by taking the leading place in the market. It consisted of twenty-nine splendid rams, six fewer than the number entered, and came on for sale early in the day. The total amount realized by this fine group was £743 15s., the top sum paid for a single ram being £106—£8 more than the maximum of last year, and £11 above that of 1865. This enormous price, the highest ever paid for an individual tup at the Kelso sales, was given by Mr. Smith, Castlemaids, one of the tenants of the Marquis of Tweedale, for a most admirable specimen, which created a very warm contest among the bidders. The average price was £25 13s.—£2 7s. lower than that of last year, when Lord Polwarth headed both the top and average prices.

The second place was obtained by the Mellendean lot (the late Mr. Stark's), which has for several years, without intermission, held the same honourable position in the market. It consisted of thirty-four rams, and was sold in the same ring as Lord Polwarth's, but later in the day, realizing the large sum of £773. The highest price was £84, paid by Mr. Mills, Horsburgh Castle. This was £4 above the maximum of the same lot last year; but the average, £22 14s. 9d., shows a reduction in comparison with that of 1866, when it was £25 15s.

Next came the Linton Burnfoot lot (Mr. Purves'), which has also ranked third for some years. The highest price realized was £60 (given by Mr. Calder, Oxenrigg), an advance of £10 on the maximum of 1866.

To the report is appended the following statistics of previous sales. The table shows the highest and average prices, and the number of entries; but, in connection with the latter, it must be borne in mind that while the figures referring to the years 1853-63 include the half-breeds, those for the last four apply to the Leicesters, and all are exclusive of the animals sent for disposal by private bargains:—

Years.	Entries.	Highest.	Average
1846.....	350	£13 0 0	—
1847.....	330	21 0 0	—
1848.....	400	17 0 0	—
1849.....	500	10 10 0	—
1850.....	500	21 0 0	—
1851.....	682	14 0 0	—
1852.....	930	—	£ 8 11 0 2
1853.....	1193	—	8 5 0
1854.....	1750	35 0 0	10 10 0
1855.....	1850	50 0 0	11 11 5
1856.....	1325	26 0 0	9 6 0
1857.....	1630	46 0 0	11 12 0
1858.....	1546	80 0 0	10 12 4
1859.....	1518	35 0 0	12 4 8
1860.....	2033	52 10 0	10 7 0
1861.....	1822	52 10 0	17 0 0
1862.....	2329	50 0 0	17 19 5
1863.....	2560	60 0 0	21 6 3
1864.....	2100	70 0 0	26 19 8 1
1865.....	2006	85 0 0	37 18 10 1
1866.....	2226	98 0 0	27 1 0

**SPARROWS WANTED IN NEW ZEALAND.**—At a meeting of the committee of the Wanganui Acclimatisation Society, held in October of last year, it was resolved: "That a circular be printed offering a premium of £1 per pair for any number of English house sparrows, not exceeding one hundred, delivered alive and in healthy condition at Wanganui, or to the Society's agent, at Wellington, within eighteen months from date."

**DIMINISHED ACREAGE OF FLAX IN IRELAND.**—We are sorry to learn from the *Farmer's Magazine* that there has been a considerable falling off the present year in the Irish flax crop. The total acreage under flax in Ireland in 1866 was 263,507 acres; in 1867, 253,105 acres; decrease in 1867, 10,402. The decline is chiefly in the Province of Ulster, which grew 234,491 acres as against 245,356 acres in 1866, showing a falling off in that province of 10,865 acres. This is not a sign of prosperity!