

"We regard the appointment of the Hon. Mr. Angers as the Dominion Minister of Agriculture as a standing insult to the intelligence of the 700,000 farmers in the Dominion of Canada. We are quite willing that a lawyer should fill the position of Minister of Justice or Attorney-General, but when Sir John Thompson appoints a lawyer to be chief farmer of the Dominion, we think he is carrying things too far. We want Sir John Thompson's Government to replace Mr. Angers by one of the many intelligent and capable farmers to be found in the Conservative party."

"The Patrons stand alone; we have nothing in common with the P. P. A. or the McCarthy movement. The P. P. A. movement has to do with questions of race and religion; the Patrons of Industry deal purely in economic questions. We have thousands of Roman Catholic members in our association. As to the McCarthy movement, we could not identify it with the Patrons for various reasons, but first and foremost because Mr. McCarthy could not, being a lawyer, even belong to our association, much less become a leader. No candidate in any constituency who does not receive the formal indorsement of the Patrons of Industry will receive the support of the organization of the Patrons. In such cases Patrons will be left free to vote according to their individual preferences. I may mention that this was the case in Lambton. The Patrons took no part in the contest there as an organization, but voted as each man pleased."

Chief officers of the Patrons of Industry: C. A. Mallory, Warkworth, grand president; T. O. Currie, Strathroy, grand vice-president; L. A. Welsh, Strathroy, grand secretary-treasurer; Fergus Kennedy, Camlachie, A. Gifford, Meaford, J. Lockie Wilson, Alexandria, grand trustees; John Miller, Glenmorris, grand lecturer; W. Valens, Lucknow, J. G. Adams, Wales, grand auditors; D. Dwyer, West Flamboro, grand sentinel.

Canadian Wool.

BY D. MCCRAE.

The present is a good time for an outlook on Canadian wool. What are the prospects for better prices and a better market in the near future? What effect will the placing of wool on the free list in the American tariff have on Canadian wool? Before attempting to answer these questions, let us take a look at the past and the present situation of the wool question. Time was, in the past, when our long Canadian wool, strong in staple and glossy in lustre, commanded a high price—when forty and fifty cents were freely paid to farmers for the long Leicester and Cotswold wool. Then came a sudden drop; lustre goods were not in the fashion. The wool-grower waited, hoping for a rise in prices. Fashions have changed many times since then, but lustre wools have never got near the old prices. For the past few years twenty cents and under has been about the price obtained for clean, washed wool, and twelve cents about the highest price paid for unwashed of the same quality. At these prices there has been but little profit made by the large dealers in Canadian wools. Now and then in past years, notably before the adoption of the increased duties under the McKinley Bill, there was an active demand at good prices for the dealers, but the buying since then has not been active, and dealers have had to hold a large part of the clip for many months and then barely get out of it cost and expenses. The American market is still the market for our surplus wool; we send there about a million pounds annually, while all that goes to the British market is very small indeed—a few thousand pounds, and that mainly for British Columbia. But the Americans do not regulate the price even, although they are practically our only foreign customer. The price is set in a dingy little room in London where the auction sales of the world's wool crop are held.

Australia and New Zealand now grow immense quantities of long, lustre wool, and by the price this can be bought for in London and laid down in the United States the American regulates his offers for Canadian wools. The long wool grown in Australia has kept down the price of our Canadian wool. In the days of high prices they grew little or none, but since then it is exported by a hundred ship loads. The quality, too, is a little finer than ours, since it has been graded up from a Merino basis by the help of Cotswold, Lincoln and Leicester rams. The staple is long and strong, the lustre good, and it is grown very cheaply on the great Australian plains. This, more than any other, is the rival we have to face in selling our lustre wool in the American market. But what about our home market—the buyers for our own Canadian mills? They buy as cheaply as they can, and have offered to them wools from all parts of the world. Hundreds of samples of different grades and qualities come by sample post from the dealers of Great Britain and the continent. Cable codes enable offers and answers to be made cheaply and quickly. Our wool competes with the wool of the world in the home market. We have protection in theory, but practically it is of very little account. The Canadian Tariff of Customs reads: "Wool, class one, viz.: Leicester, Cotswold, Lincolnshire Southdown combing wools, or wools known as lustre wools, and other like combing wools such as are grown in Canada, three cents per lb." The ordinary farmer who reads this would naturally conclude that this ought to be a protection to the extent of

three cents per pound. It, however, has not that effect. If the duty under this class were made thirteen or thirty cents per pound it would make very little difference; more down wool is used in Canada than is grown here. Here then, if anywhere, protection should protect the wool-grower. It does not; thousands of pounds of down wools are annually used by the mills in Canada and pay no duty. They can be combed by the modern combing machinery, but they are not known as "combing" wools, they are not known as lustre wools, they have no lustre, and they therefore do not come under the clause "other like combing wools, such as are grown in Canada." The cross-bred New Zealand and Australian wools imported come in direct competition with our long Canadian wools, yet they are really not "like such as are grown in Canada;" they have the dash of Merino blood—they pay no duty. Of all the many tons of wool coming into Montreal annually, the returns will show that in a recent year not one cent was paid for duty on wool at that port, and the total collected for the Dominion on all wools was fifteen cents for the same year, while the quantity of foreign wool brought into Canada that year was over eight million pounds. Our total export for the same year was under one million pounds, and did not much exceed the import of woollen rags for shoddy to be used in our Canadian mills. The extended use of shoddy has been one of the chief factors in keeping down the price of good wool. Rags from anywhere or everywhere, bought in Britain, are brought to Canada by the hundred tons, some of them are foul with the wear of the dirtiest of dwellers in Old World slums, and yet they are thought good enough to be worked into the goods sold to Canadians as "home manufacture." So much for the situation at present.

If the Wilson Bill be adopted by the Americans, our wool will be admitted free into the markets of the United States; Australia will have the same privilege. Our wool crop is very small compared to theirs. Prices will probably change but little, if any, on the London market, but we will have a better market, more buyers, because of our nearness and the interchange which freer trade always brings. Canadian manufacturers will not be affected to any extent. If our wools find better customers at slightly better prices in the United States they will replace with wools from Britain as they do now when any line is scarce, and as our wools go into more mills and become better known in the States, our trade will be better and our prices steadier.

STOCK.

Sheep Exhibit at Fat Stock Show, Guelph.

Thanks to the efforts made by the Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations and the money given by them for prizes, the late show at Guelph was without compare the best ever held in the Royal City, which means the best fat stock show ever held on this continent. Cattle have no doubt been exhibited at Chicago both in larger numbers and of a higher general excellence, but not so sheep or swine; they surpass both in quantity and quality anything ever shown at the American Fat Stock Show. And why should it not be so when the principal prize-winners at the Columbian again locked horns on their native heath? "When Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug-of-war;" and this was indeed a bitter fight, though a good-natured one.

When Lincoln and Leicester and Cotswold meet in battle array it is not an ordinary fight for the honor of winning first prize from a competitor who is showing similar blood, perhaps closely related, but was indeed a battle of the breeds, and right nobly did Snell and Kelly and Orr range up alongside their larger and more imposing Lincoln cousins exhibited by Gibson & Walker and Oliver, and so well did they deliver their shots that they captured a number of prizes from their grandly proportioned and more bulky competitors. In the first round (yearling ewes) the Lincolns won first and second, and Leicesters third and very highly commended. There were thirteen entries, four of the former and balance Leicesters. Amongst the unnoticed ones were a couple of grand-backed Leicesters carrying lots of good wool, exhibited by Jno. Orr, Galt.

In the next class, ewe lambs, there were four Lincoln entries and ten Leicesters. The Lincolns scored first and fourth. J. Orr again showed a good lamb. The winner was a capital-backed, well-grown lamb.

In the wether class the Leicesters had no competitors, consequently captured all the prizes.

Pen of three lambs, four entries, three Leicester and one Lincoln which won second money. Three wether lambs were a poor entry, and not creditable; the next class more than made up for it, however.

Pen of five sheep, under two years, bred by exhibitor.—The Lincolns in this class could not be denied, as they not only carried more flesh but had better backs, and, notwithstanding their immense size and substance, had quality equal to anything

shown; this, combined with the correct fleece, represented the true type of the improved Lincoln—size and substance combined with quality. The Leicesters were typical, but, while they showed quality, they lacked the wide loin and well-covered back of their competitors.

What is to be regretted in connection with these classes is that the Cotswolds did not put in an appearance, as they would have met foemen worthy of their steel; with the most noted breeders of the other sorts, they would have to fight hard for every ribbon, and if successful, when gained under such circumstances, how sweet the victory.

In the next division the prizes were competed for by Oxfords, Hampshires and Shropshires, and when the names of Campbell, Beattie, Hammer and Wright are found in the catalogue it is surely a guarantee that the latter breed will be well represented; and as the Oxfords only sent forward a few poor specimens, it was left to the Hampshires to fight alone the popular Shrops. The Hampshires, though small in numbers, did well, Rutherford and Kelly each showing creditable specimens.

The class for yearling ewes consisted of one Oxford and eight Shrops, the latter winning all the prizes.

Ewe lambs, fifteen entries. Campbell first with a very neat but very small lamb—in fact, too small; while we advocate quality, still size must not be overlooked. In this class W. E. Wright exhibited a grand lamb that got no mention. The exhibits of Hammer and Beattie were very creditable. Kelly here exhibited a pair of Hampshires, one especially deserving notice. This was a splendid class, and required considerable time to sift out the prize-winners, as it was a difficult class to judge. The Hampshires, though standing over their competitors, did not handle so well. In this connection I wish to say that wherever I may criticise the judgment, it is done with no intention of criticising the judges; they performed a most arduous and difficult task under most trying circumstances. The building was so crowded with sale stock that the sheep had to be judged in alleys wherever there was space. This should not occur again.

In the yearling wether class first was won by a capital Hampshire, and another was second. The Shrops were very badly represented.

Wether lambs—Beattie one, three and four, with good, strong representatives; Hammer second, with a smaller and neater one.

Pens of three ewe lambs, the winners small, but of good quality, with excellent backs of firm flesh. This was a very good exhibit, and a very close thing all round. Pen of three wether lambs, Beattie's Shropshires first, Hampshires second. Pen of five was won by Campbell with a very even lot.

The next grouping consisted of Southdowns, Dorsets and Merinos. In these classes, of course, the Southdowns would naturally carry the majority of the prizes; the Dorsets occasionally put in an appearance. It will be unnecessary to go through these sections, as the prizes went principally to Douglas, R. Shaw & Son, R. Dale and J. Rutherford. The prize list will show how they stood in the respective classes. Harding showed a big, good Dorset lamb. The Southdowns, as usual made a capital exhibit, but of the thoroughbred stock the honors clearly belonged to the Lincolns and Shropshires.

Sweepstakes wethers a poor lot, as the yearling wethers were the weakest right through the classes. It was eventually won by a Southdown, after calling in a referee to decide between it and a Leicester. It was a good mutton sheep, with a firm back, and beat its strongest opponent below and in leg and thigh.

Sweepstake ewes.—This was a much better class, and brought out a capital lot. It was again a hard matter to pick the winner. A Lincoln eventually got there after a severe fight with a Leicester.

The grades, or as they may be styled, the menagerie classes, as they contained all sorts, sizes and conditions of sheep, were a very good lot.

Class ewes over two, first was awarded to a sheep showing much Shrop character, but I could scarcely follow the judge, as it was quite raw and bare on back; to my idea a much better was a Lincoln-Leicester, as it had the best covered back in class. The H. C. was also a capital butcher's sheep, carrying plenty of firm, solid flesh.

In the two-year-old wether class the first was half Shrop and Southdown, and was probably the best butcher's sheep on the exhibition. We believe he was the sweepstakes winner at Chicago.

The other classes call for little comment, the long wools getting in their work in yearling ewes, and the Shrops in wether lambs, pens of three ewe lambs, and pen of three wether lambs.

Sweepstakes wether.—John Rutherford.

Sweepstakes ewe.—Gibson & Walker.

For the Cooper prize there was great competition, as not only the prize-winners in their respective classes put in an appearance, but also some brought specially for the purpose that could not show in regular classes. Whether it was the intention of the donor to limit the competition to sheep which had been shown before will no doubt be settled before another year. The fight simmered down to a bout between a Lincoln and an aged Oxford ewe, and the latter was eventually pronounced the winner. It was an interesting fight, and opinions were pretty evenly divided as to the better of the two.