

fat stock shows, too, the normal condition of an animal should take consideration. Stall-fed, blubbery beef is not healthy, nor is it profitable. What the best style of beef for use should be, is what we want to know, and not how much fat an animal can lay on. The beef that can be laid on any table and be the most nutritious, and, at the same time, favorable without excess of fat, is what we want; we don't want over-fed, rank beef which fat stock shows produce—No! That exhibition animals are no test with their loaded sides of fat is patent. For profit, they are not there, if extra feed and attention be considered. As a scientific experiment of what dimensions an animal can assume by stuffing, a fat stock show is just the thing, and should be confined to such. But agricultural exhibitions should be confined to showing what a plain, practical farmer can do in the way of exhibiting well-bred, profitable animals in the various classes in a normal condition.

Let the fancy fat breeders go by themselves and make the best they can; but our agricultural exhibitions should go no further than merely offering prizes for breeding stock, and good, marketable shipping steers, &c. If anything, as we have remarked, fat stock, as shown at our special shows, are anything but profitable, and the end attained is not for the advancement of the general farmer, for animals fed to the point of winning at a fat stock show do not pay in any sense for breeding; they are useless, and, for consumption, the greater proportion of the meat is too rank for wholesome food and healthy digestion.

1883.

The present number closes the 18th volume of this journal. This volume contains the largest amount of reading matter and a more costly lot of illustrations than any previous one. The circulation has increased more than in any previous year, and notwithstanding the expensive improvements made, the price has not been increased. We believe we have fully completed our promises to you, and have every confidence in your appreciation of our labors and of the labors of our contributors, and believe we are furnishing you with better value for one dollar than any other dollar expended from the farm.

We have every confidence of receiving the continued patronage and support of all well-wishers to our general agricultural prosperity. If there has been any oversight or omission in neglecting any important, useful or beneficial step, plan or undertaking, or if any errors have occurred, our pages have always been open for our subscribers to aid or correct us. No valuable correspondence is neglected. This is your paper, and in it you have the opportunity of aiding your interest and the interest of your fellow beings. We believe we have honorably and honestly fulfilled our duty to you, and have fairly offered you all an opportunity to help one another in the most independent and honorable manner. If any have improvements to suggest in the management of our agricultural affairs, and fail to give them publicity, so that they may be discussed, you are not, we think, doing justice to yourselves or the country.

We return our sincere thanks to every subscriber and every contributor, and have great confidence in soliciting your continued support, hoping to continue to improve your journal as much in the future as it has been improved in the past. We hope to make the 19th volume much more valuable and interesting to you than any previous one. Do your duty! Persevere and succeed. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Adieu, 1883!

Special Contributors.

Chicago Fat Stock Show of 1883.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The Sixth Annual American Fat Stock Show, held at Chicago, was the largest, to say the least, that has ever been held on the continent. The entries were much fuller and there was a much better assortment of stock than in former years. The attendance of visitors was good, and the financial outcome of the show was all that the managers could desire. So much for the show in general.

The awards, in some cases, perhaps as a rule, were very fairly made, but in the minds of good judges there were some notable exceptions. In former years the Hereford men have complained that they did not get fair play, but this year they had no complaints to enter, and the Shorthorn men, on the other hand, felt that they were not equitably treated. Perhaps it is as well that it was so, as the Hereford men will be encouraged to take hold with renewed vigor, while the Shorthorn men will certainly have to stir their stumps a little. They have been winning their laurels too easily in late years, and it has been suggested that they were becoming a little careless. However, this will wake them up, and next year they will probably be prepared to make a fight worthy of their breed.

The first honors of any consequence in the show were taken by Canada. The imported Polled-Angus steer Black Prince, said to be owned by Hugh Nelson, of England, entered by Geary Bros., of London, Ont., took the sweepstakes for three-year olds in the finest ring of Shorthorns and Herefords that was ever gotten in one ring at this show. The triumph was regarded as a big one by the admirers of the hornless blacks, and so it was. The best breeders of the country had their choicest animals pitted against him, but the doddie carried off the ribbon. By the way, there was an amusing incident occurred in this connection. One of the city reporters, in referring to the honors won by this animal, concluded by saying: "And upon this animal's horn was hung the blue ribbon." He probably did not know a Polled steer from a horned goat.

Mr. Culbertson's (of Chicago) steer, Roan Boy, got the grand sweepstakes, and the Hereford admirers were much elated over it, but it was not a clean victory, as the animal was thought to have as much, or more, Shorthorn than Hereford blood in his veins.

The white Shorthorn, Clarence Kirklevington, of Bow Park herd, was a beauty, and was thought by many to be entitled to favorable consideration by the sweepstakes awarding committee.

Some of the judges well said, that in view of the large number of prime animals shown, the premium list should have been three times as large as it was.

The Potts sweepstake steer at the Kansas City show did not cut much figure here. Evidently there is a difference in judges.

Space forbids premiums in detail, but the battle of the breeds was stronger than ever, and, on the whole, the Herefords came out with the most honors.

During the show various important meetings were held. The Illinois Shorthorn Breeders, Secretary, J. B. Hostetter, Mt. Carroll, Ill., decided to assess each member to raise a fund for duplicating the premiums taken by Illinois Shorthorns at the show. Breeders of Polled Suffolk and Norfolk cattle formed the "Red Polled Cattle Club." The Hereford breeders met, but did no important business.

The Berkshire breeders had an interesting meeting. The secretary is P. M. Springer, Springfield, Ill.

The Norman horsemen had an enthusiastic meeting, and a grand banquet. T. Butterworth, Quincy, Ill., is Secretary.

The Holstein Association, Thos. B. Wales, Iowa City, Iowa, Secretary, held a good meeting.

There were several hundred Shorthorn cattle sold at auction in the show and at Dexter Park.

Thos. B. Wales sold a herd of Holsteins at \$200 to \$400, with Mercedes 3rd, calved Feb. 24th, 1883, to Smith & Powell, Syracuse, N. Y., at \$4,200. Tall price for a youngster.

Another herd of Holsteins sold at \$100 to \$200 per head.

It is predicted that the present abnormal prices for Herefords and Polled Angus, will result in a bad break, sooner or later. There is no doubt that prices are foolishly high. It is the best time in the world to invest in Shorthorns.

The contest of carcasses was sharp, but the Shorthorns came out with flying colors. The Shorthorn steer "Starlight," owned by Potts, captured the blue ribbon in his class and the grand sweepstakes for carcasses.

M. H. Cochrane's Polled-Angus steer, "Waterside Jock," 999 days of age, took first premium for carcasses in his class; and Fowler & Van Natta's Hereford steer "Harry," 713 days, took first in his class. "Waterside Jock" weighed 1,815 lbs., and had made an average gain of 1.82 lbs. "Harry" weighed 1,405 lbs., and had gained 1.97 lbs. per day.

One or two of the chronic complainers in the Hereford ranks were terrible wrought up over the sweepstakes for carcasses going to a Shorthorn.

After all, the honors of the show were very evenly distributed among the breeds. "Black Prince," Polled Angus, took sweepstakes for three-year old; "Roan Boy," grade Hereford, grand sweepstakes for best animal, and Potts' "Starlight," Shorthorn grand sweepstakes for best carcass of beef.

There has been a good deal of talk about the Holsteins as combined milk and beef cattle. They do make beef, perhaps, more and better than Jerseys, but it is of a very indifferent kind. Little need be claimed for them on that score.

For milk and beef combined, the Shorthorns and Polled-Angus are unquestionably the breeds.

There is a boom on Hereford and Polled-Angus stock that cannot last. At least, so think some careful breeders of those strains. For large herds to sell at auction at an average of \$500 to \$600 per head for beef breeding, is not justifiable. There may not be as bad a break as there was on Shorthorns some years ago, but there is almost certain to be a considerable break. Two to three hundred dollars per head is a sound range for fine stock, and prices above are exorbitant and abnormal.

The brick dust coloring matter on some Michigan Shropshire sheep at the show, was disgusting in the extreme. What, taste and what fools some breeders must think people are!

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