

Stock.

The Chicago Fat Stock Show.

For several years this show has been looked forward to as one of the best in that line, and the 12th Annual Show recently held was quite up to any previous one. It was feared that the horse show, closed just before it, would have detracted from the interest, but that does not appear to have been the case.

The judges for cattle on foot were Col. Moberly, Kentucky; Mr. John Gosling, with Mr. John Imboden, Decatur, Ill., as referee. The first was supposed to represent the breeders; the second the feeders, and John Imboden the butchers' interest.

In judging, however, they seemed in many cases to judge from a butchers' standpoint, as a light flank, a weak fore-flank and small brisket were points that they often favored, certainly contrary to the rule of all breeders and feeders.

Nine Shorthorn steers, three years and under four, were but a medium class, in which J. H. Potts & Son, Richmond, were awarded first. He was a neat, well-formed steer, but decidedly under size. The second went to W. S. White's London Boy, a larger steer, well fed, but not even. The third went to C. S. Barclay's Liberty, also a light steer, but with more quality than the rest in the ring not awarded places.

Ten two-year-olds came forward and were a decided improvement on the latter class, and the judges had to call in the referee to decide between two steers of D. W. Renick, of Lexington, Ky., both of good quality; the third going to a rather plain steer, better ones than he being left out in the cold.

Yearling steers were much better. Amongst the twelve shown, J. J. Hill's Britisher, a rich mossy roan, with plenty of style, a depth of rib and well filled beef points, proclaimed him the best steer that had yet showed up. He was brought out by the manager, Mr. John Gibson, in fine form. The rest, a nice even lot, but wanting in weight. There was nothing special in the class of six calves; they were just a moderately even lot, and had made fair growth.

BLACK POLLS.

Three-year-olds Munroe and Roxston were all that was entered in this class, both the property of J. J. Hills, and were in fine form. The first was a grandly developed steer, with plenty of size and wonderfully even.

T. W. Harvey, Turlington, showed Alexander Knight, a fairly good bullock, in the two year class. In three yearling black Polls, J. J. Hills was easily first over two shown by A. B. Mathews. The calf Defiance, brought out by Mr. Gibson, was a grand specimen of this breed, full as an egg in all his beef points.

Herefords were represented by five three-year-olds, of nice quality, but in nothing special as to weight for age.

Two-year-olds were a little better lot, and were awarded in the following order: First, to W. S. Van Vatta's Edwin; C. M. Cuthbertson's Star Milton 16th; Adam's Earl, Earl of Shadeland 27th.

Hereford yearlings were nothing extra, either in weight for age or in size or quality, and the calves were just a nice smooth lot, with no especial feature among them.

The Sussex cattle shown by Overton Lea, of Nashville, Tenn., were well brought out, and

were a good type of the breed, their backs being well clothed with a good depth of flesh; they were upstanding and plain below.

Devons were a very ordinary lot, and would not compare favorably with a choice lot of grazing steers.

Holsteins had two two-year-old steers and two calves to represent what they could do as beef producers.

GRADES AND CROSSES.

Sixteen made up the largest ring yet forward, but was not equal in quality, nor anything special in weight for age, size, or any other particular.

Two-year-olds were far superior, and a lot of good ones among fourteen that mustered, and a particularly good one was Elbert & Fall's, Rigdon, a three-quarter bred Shorthorn, quarter native; so, also, was a seven-eighths Hereford, shown by H. H. Clough, and several more in the class not among the winners.

Grade yearlings showed up a lot of good ones, the first being taken by Bonnie Blue Ribbon, shown by Moffat Bros., also three-quarter bred Shorthorn; Mr. Price being second with Sealskin, half Hereford and half Shorthorn.

The next class was the beginning of the real excitement, as all breeds here came against each other as three-year-olds.

J. W. Potts again winning first with his Shorthorn steer Richmond; J. J. Hill's Angus Munroe, second; W. H. Renick's not registered Shorthorn, third.

Twenty head of the cream of the two-year-olds of all breeds sought honor at the hands of the judges, and again the beautiful grade Shorthorn of Elbert & Falls, being heavier than anything else that came against him, except the Hereford grade steer Clem, which lacked badly in his prime beef points.

Among the eighteen yearlings of all breeds very prominent again stood J. J. Hill's Britisher, with his gain of 2.35 lbs. per day, and brought out in highest form, he again winning first, the Shorthorn steer Blue Ribbon taking second.

For grand sweepstakes for all breeds and ages, the Elbert & Falls' two year grade Shorthorn steer Rigdon again came first.

The champion heavy-weight went to the Shorthorn steer Breastplate, that weighed 2,660 lbs., owned by John Sherman, Chicago.

Greater dissatisfaction was caused by the bad judgment of carcasses on the block than in any other department. Two of the judges were from the packing and canning houses of Swift & Co. and Calumet Canning Co., while the third was a driver of a butcher's delivery waggon, all from Chicago. In three year carcasses that of the Devon New Era, which won first both in his class and also sweepstakes, it was decided by all hands that the ribbons must have been changed by mistake, as the carcass was quite inferior to many of the others. The two year carcass was won by Makin Bros., Hereford, and Shorthorn, J. S. Emery; while for yearling carcass the already successful sweepstakes' yearling Britisher again wins.

SHEEP.

The sheep department contained about one hundred fat wethers, spread over six of the pure-breeds and a large class of cross-bred sheep. Southdowns were first on the list, and John Rutherford, Roseville, Ont., here cleaned the platter.

In Shropshires, which was a large and good

class, the honors were divided between Messrs. Allen, Todd and Rundle.

The Oxfords were smaller in numbers—here again John Rutherford, Roseville, Ont., was successful.

Cotswolds only had twelve representatives here again. John Rutherford led off with three first premiums, seconded by F. Wilson, Jackson, Mich., and J. F. Rundle, Mich.

Leicesters and Lincolns were shown together. Out of this class came the heaviest sheep shown, and again John Rutherford led off all the prizes in this class except a Canadian bred lamb, which gained first, shown by J. F. Rundle.

Rundle gained most of the prizes in the Merino classes.

Crosses were a good lot. The heaviest sheep was a cross between a Shropshire ram and Leicester ewe; it was also shown by John Rutherford. On the whole the Canadian sheep were most successful, John Rutherford being the chief exhibitor, other exhibitors won with Canadian bred sheep.

The sweepstakes winner, both on foot and on the block, was a cross-bred sired by a Shropshire ram, dam a Merino ewe.

Yorkshires vs. Berkshires.

Please give me space to correct one or two sentences in my last letter. What I wrote was as follows:—"In conclusion, if I, whose business success as a pork-packer depends on having a supply of the right class of hogs, while my success or failure as a pig breeder is an insignificant matter, am not impartial, is Mr. Snell, the Berkshire breeder and importer for many years, with a business extending over the continent, the person whose statements are to be received as final and unquestioned?" I am pleased to say that since my letter appeared in reply to Mr. Snell, I have had letters from farmers who were incredulous, but are now convinced of the truth of my statements. Mr. Snell, in your last issue, again champions the Berkshires as, of all others, the lean meat or muscle producing hog. This statement I dispute, and further I say that according to Mr. Snell's own theory his opinion is not of any value, because he is an interested witness. I do not wonder, Mr. Editor, that the Berkshire men are alarmed; the Yorkshires have come to stay, and "as every dog must have his day" (dear me, like Mr. Snell, I have written poetry before I knew it), the Berkshires have had theirs, and as "the prudent man foreseeth evil and hideth himself," I would advise Mr. Snell to dispose of his Berkshires and join us, where he would soon be, "if not first, in the very first rank." In concluding this letter I want to say that my object in agitating this matter is to induce the farmers, first, to raise hogs; second, to raise the right sort; third, to feed them judiciously; and last, but not least, to have them ready for sale when they are at the highest price, usually from 1st July to 1st October, and 1st March to 1st May. When I turned farmer it would have been easier for me to go into Berkshires than any others, but the information obtained from Irish, English and Danish bacon curers, coupled with my own experience as a pork packer, led me to "give them a wide berth."

Yours truly, WM. DAVIES.

A breeder of high grade Herefords in Minnesota recently had an auction sale. The prices realized were comparatively low. A neighbor remarked to the breeder that he had not realized fancy prices for his stock. The reply was:—They brought me twice the price of scrubs, and did not cost me any more. There was sound logic in the reply.