

Sandy Bay Stock Farm.

The colored illustration which appears in this number represents three well-known Shire mares, the property of Mr. Horace N. Crossley, Sandy Bay Stock Farm, Rosseau, Muskoka, Ont. They were painted from life by our own artist, are exceedingly true to nature, and attest his skill as a painter. The sketch was made during the past autumn. The scene in the background is a view of a portion of the farm itself, taken from the west, looking on Rosseau Lake; and no doubt many of our readers who have passed a few pleasant days at Ontario's greatest summer resort—the Muskoka Lakes—will have no difficulty in recognizing the scene. The mares here depicted are all well-known prize-winners, and have secured for the Sandy Bay stables the blue ribbon of their class at the Toronto Industrial (i. e., the medal for best Shire mare of any age) no less than five times in succession. In fact, ever since these stables competed in the show-ring they have taken the medal, with the exception of the first year, when, Sapphire being only a two-year-old, the judges, after a good deal of wavering, preferred to give the medal to an older mare rather than risk bestowing the premier honor on a young animal who might possibly not fulfill the promise of her youth.

(79) Sapphire, the figure in the left front of picture, is a seven-year-old bay mare, sired by Northern King (2335), dam Vol. XI. Shaw's Jewel. She won second at Halifax, Eng., in 1890, as a yearling, being beaten by a colt. This is the only time she has suffered defeat. In 1891 she was imported by the present owner, and exhibited that year at the Toronto Industrial, when she secured first in the two-year-old class. In 1892 she obtained first in the brood mare class (her foal also securing first) and silver medal and diploma as best mare of any age at same exhibition. In 1893 Sapphire was awarded the medal as best mare of any age at the Montreal Provincial Exhibition and silver medal and diploma at Toronto Industrial. In 1894 she was successful at the latter show as one of a team, being mated

have been illustrated in our paper and need no mention; they are, notably, Fireworks, Rosseau Performer, Althorpe Duchess, Althorpe Countess, Lady Bird, and Lady Cocking—all well-known prize-winners; but besides these there are a number of youngsters that have already made their mark and who promise to rival the deeds of their respective progenitors, and which can be bought reasonably. Certainly now is the time to make investments, after the show season is over and before the stallions are engaged for the season or the fillies are mated. All the signs of the times point to a great improvement in the horse trade during the coming year, and prices are already rising. For the winter season Mr. Crossley is making his home at 91 Woodlawn Avenue, Toronto, where he can be consulted by those on the lookout for individuals of these two popular types of horses—Shires and Hackneys.

Mr. Simpson Rennie's Gold Medal Farm.

Our readers will appreciate the glimpse we give of "Kelvin Grove" farm, the property of Mr. Simpson Rennie, Milliken, Township of Scarborough, York Co., Ont., which may be taken as representing the highest type of the older Canadian farms. Our engraving represents the residence, outbuildings, and a small portion of the estate itself. This farm (consisting of 102½ acres) was awarded the gold medal in the prize farm competition of 1883 (group No. 4), conducted under the old Ontario Agriculture and Arts Association. The judges that year were Messrs. John I. Hobson and Wm. Donaldson. Among the essential points to successful farming on which the judges laid special emphasis in their general deductions were: Stock-keeping, with proper accommodations; extermination of weeds; underdraining; maintenance of fertility; proper equipment; care of implements, etc.; and the best use of stock foods. Mr. Rennie is a brother of Mr. Wm. Rennie, now the successful Farm Superintendent at the Ontario Agricultural College, and founder of the Toronto seed firm bearing his name.

The Ontario Fat Stock Show.

The thirteenth yearly Canadian "Smithfield" came to a close on December 12th after three of the most successful days in the history of the show. It was held under the auspices of the Dominion Cattle, Sheep, and Swine Breeders' Associations, the Eastern and Western Dairymen's Associations, the Guelph Fat Stock Club, City Council, Board of Trade, and the Ontario Agricultural College. Not more than five years ago stock had to be brought from the Agricultural College Farm to help fill the capacious rink in which it was held. Two years ago, without the College stock, there was barely room enough left to form a judging ring, and last year one-half of an extensive annex had to be used to enclose a portion of the sheep, the other half being occupied by the poultry show held at that time. This year the exhibits of cattle increased until within the main building there was room for only one class of sheep—Leicesters—besides the cattle and swine, the annex being well filled with the other various breeds of sheep. While the increase in dairy cows had something to do with the overflow, the other classes of stock also were responsible for the extra space required. The attendance and therefore the gate receipts were much larger than ever before. The following table shows the number of entries present, as compared with those of last year:

	1895.	1896.
Beef Cattle.....	62	90
Dairy.....	11	30
Sheep.....	253	279
Swine.....	104	150

It is particularly gratifying to see this splendid exhibition growing year by year. No doubt the efforts of the various stock and dairy associations have had much to do with the steady advance. The dairy test, affording as it did a class for the different breeds, was particularly interesting, but no larger than it should have been. The Holstein-Friesian breeders rejoice in their victory with Calamity Jane, the winner of last year, owned by Messrs. Rice, Currie's Crossing, Ont. It is no small



THE GOLD MEDAL WINNING FARM OF MR. SIMPSON RENNIE, MILLIKEN, ONTARIO.

with Queen of Althorpe, and for the third time secured the silver medal and diploma. Since that time Sapphire has not been shown.

The mare in the center and a little to the rear of Sapphire is (10) Queen of Althorpe, foaled in 1887, and imported by the proprietor in 1890. She was sired by Sliding Scale (6405), and out of a dam by Sir Roger (2026), who won a great many first prizes in England. Queen of Althorpe for four years was worked steadily on the farm and not shown at all, but being required in 1894 to make up one of a team along with Sapphire, she was exhibited at the Toronto Industrial and secured first place. This success she followed up in 1895 by taking first prize as best brood mare, and silver medal and diploma at same exhibition (her foal, having met with an accident, only took second place). She also secured first as best brood mare and medal for best mare of any age at Montreal Provincial Exhibition in same year (her foal here secured first).

The picture on the rear right does not do full justice to (99) Rosseau Propriety, who is one of the very best Shire mares ever brought to this country. She was imported by Mr. Crossley in 1894, is a blue-roan in color, three years old, sired by St. Hybald (4068), dam Althorpe Dewdrop by Samson (4670). She is a very low-set, but blocky mare, and on account of her small size has been set back on two occasions, but barring her height she is in every respect what a Shire mare ought to be. Propriety has won first at Toronto Industrial, 1894; second at same exhibition, 1895; first at Montreal Provincial, same year; and second at Ottawa as best Shire mare any age, same year. In 1896 she won first as three-year-old at the Toronto Industrial and silver medal and diploma as best mare of any age at same exhibition in the largest class of Shire mares that was ever shown there. Mr. Crossley has this year disposed of most of his surplus stock of Shires, but has still on hand a few fillies which have won prizes in their class and which can doubtless be secured at prices fitting the times.

The Sandy Bay Stock Farm is not only notorious as a stronghold of the Shires, but is equally celebrated as a strong-ground for Hackneys. Many of the best samples of this breed owned by Mr. Crossley

His farm in York County, we might add, was awarded the first silver medal in the competition of 1883.

Proposed Removal of the Fat Stock Show.

During the recent show at Guelph, Ont., deputations from London, Brantford, and Lindsay asked for next year's show. They were asked to put their claims in writing, and President John I. Hobson and Secretary F. W. Hodson were appointed to investigate and report at the February meeting of the Executive. This subject will bear considerable discussion.

Hereford Breeders Meet.

The annual meeting of the Hereford Breeders' Association was held in Guelph on December 10th. Vice-President Mr. Alfred Stone in the chair; Secretary Henry Wade being also present, and read a paper from President H. D. Smith, who could not be present. The paper referred to a marked increase in the demand for Herefords at much more satisfactory prices than had been obtained for the previous four or five years; also that there was increased competition and interest displayed at the last fall show. The Secretary reported that 150 animals had been recorded from December 1st, '95, to December 1st, '96, and has on hand 533 pedigrees for the first volume. One thousand one hundred and fourteen pedigrees lost in the fire have not been returned to copy, but are coming in slowly. The membership roll bears the names of 27 members. The financial statement showed a balance on hand of \$147.22.

Officers for 1897: President, H. D. Smith, Compton, Que.; Vice-President, Alf. Stone, Guelph; Vice-President for Nova Scotia, W. W. Black, Amherst, N. S.; Vice-President for Manitoba, Sir Donald A. Smith, St. James; Vice-President for the Northwest Territories, H. A. Munns, Olds, Alberta. Directors—Geo. Brant, Warwick; A. Waldie, Acton West, Richard Stult, Forest; Jas. Carswell, Renfrew; F. A. Fleming, Weston; A. Rawlings, Forest; Isaac Wiser, Prescott; H. Read, Mimosa; Jos. Sharmann, Todmorden, Man. Auditor, D. W. Green, Toronto; Secretary-Treasurer, H. Wade, Toronto.

The judges of the beef breeds of cattle at the Fat Stock Show reported in this issue were: Thos. Crawford, M. P. P., Toronto; James Smith, Brantford; Reserve, James Russell, Richmond Hill. The judges of dairy stock and conductors of the test were: J. W. Wheaton, London; R. G. Murphy, Elgin; and Prof. G. E. Day, Guelph.

For reports of other live stock meetings see page 550.

feather in her cap to do as she did when we remember that not more than some two months ago she had a very heavy attack of milk fever. The breeders' meetings, too, as well as other gatherings, were all most successful. Among the more notable visitors was Hon. Sydney Fisher, the new Dominion Minister of Agriculture, who is putting himself promptly and thoroughly in touch with the leading breeders of the country.

CATTLE.

Of the show of cattle we think it is safe to say that, on the whole, it was the best of the series. This, we believe, is true of the average as well, and we are not sure that even the best of former years were of a higher order. There were about 150 entries, being about 50 more than last year, and the different breeds were more generally and more largely represented than at any former show. Shorthorns and their grades, as usual, were largely in the majority; but Galloways, Polled-Angus, Herefords, and Devons were out in considerable numbers, and added in no small measure to the interest of the exhibition.

The exhibitors in the class for registered Short-horns were: H. & W. Smith, Exeter; Jos. Kirby, Armstrong's Mills; Wm. Dredge, Nassagaweya; A. & F. Bolton, Armstrong's Mills; John Fried, Roseville; J. Oke & Sons, Alvinston; Robert Talbot, Eramosa; J. & P. Crerar, Shakespeare; R. J. Robinson, Ailsa Craig; W. J. Rudd, Eden Mills; and Isaac Groff, Elmira.

In the section for steers two years and under three, Messrs. Smith had the only entry, a white, named Barmpton, of medium size for age, but blocky, thick-fleshed, and of good quality. The only pity is that he should have found so easy a place to win. In yearling steers there were three entries, and the competition was made exceedingly interesting by the entry of Mr. Groff's red-roan Duke, bred by Mr. Charlton, near London, sired by Indian Wing, a son of Indian Chief. This is a typical butcher's steer, and a true example of a profitable animal from the feeder's standpoint as well as for the block. For smoothness and firmness of flesh, evenly distributed on the most valuable