

EDITORIAL.

Mr. H. N. Crossley's Hackneys and Shires.

The group of horses that is so admirably portrayed in the life-like illustration upon our plate page for this issue represents the fine stud of Hackneys and Shires, the property of Mr. Horace N. Crossley, Rosseau, Ont. These horses have been remarkably successful as winners during the show campaign of 1903, several having won the highest honors in their respective classes, while all have succeeded in carrying off ribbons at the different exhibitions at which they have competed.

Sandy Bay, Mr. Crossley's stock farm, is situated on Lake Rosseau, Muskoka, where he has erected extensive buildings suitable to the requirements of a breeding establishment such as he is operating there.

Mr. Crossley made his first importation of horses in 1890, at which time he brought out the beautiful Hackney mare, Lady Cocking, a pair of half-bred Hackney mares, and a pair of registered Shire mares. Again in 1891 he brought out the Shire stallion, Headon Banneret, and the mares Sapphire and Headon Duchess.

In 1892 no importations were made, but last spring Mr. Crossley again returned to England, and selected the three-year-old Hackney stallion, Fireworks, the Hackney mare, Lady Bird, and the Shire stallion, Bravo II., and the winnings that the stud have achieved during the recent show season demonstrate what good judgment he has used in making his selections, for both Hackneys and Shires have gained their full share of ribbons.

The three-year-old stallion, Fireworks, standing to the left background in the illustration, won third in his class at the World's Fair, third at Toronto, and first at London. He was sired by Wildfire (1224), he by (Cook's) Phenomenon. Wildfire won many prizes, and his dam, Polly Horsley, by (Triffit's) Fireaway, won over thirty first prizes. Fireworks' dam, Pretty Polly (4574), was sired by the (Triffit's) Fireaway horse (Stewart's) Superior (1410), by which it will be perceived that Fireworks' blood lines show a combination of the most popular strains of the day.

Lady Cocking, of which the figure to the far right is an excellent likeness, is a beautiful ten-year-old mare of the true Hackney type. She gained second in the aged mare class at the World's Fair, fourth as mare of any age, and second in the cob class to harness, at Toronto, 1890. She is now in foal to Fireworks, and has bred some good ones, amongst which is Althorp Lady, that has won a number of prizes in England during this season. Lady Cocking was sired by Royal George (683), dam by (Brough's) Achilles (3).

Lady Bird, the remaining one of the three Hackneys, is a handsome four-year-old mare, imported this season. She won first in the four-year-old class at the World's Fair, second as the best mare of any age, and first in her class at the Western Fair, London.

She was sired by (Stewart's) Superior (1410), a son of (Triffit's) Fireaway, her dam being by Confidence (1265).

Mr. Crossley has been fortunate in his selections of Hackneys, as they are not only royally bred, but are individually of the highest merit, their action being particularly admired.

Bravo II., the Shire stallion standing in the right foreground in the illustration, won first in Montreal, first in Toronto, first in his class at London, and at the latter show he also won sweepstakes, beating all Clyde stallions. Bravo is a tightly built, thick, wide and weighty horse, exceedingly smooth in finish above, and with abundance of bone to carry him. He was sired by Will 'o Wisp (6574), his dam being Boadicea (3019), second dam Welcome, by Truth (4132). The Shire mare, Sapphire (79, C. S. S. B.), the last to be mentioned, but judging by her winnings not the least in point of excellence, this season in her class won first and silver medal as the best Shire mare of any age, both at Toronto and Montreal. In 1892, she won first in her class as brood mare at Toronto, also silver medal, her foal by her side also winning first, and in 1891 she won first in her class. She was sired by Northern King 2635, dam Shan's Jewel, by Master Tom 5202.

The above winnings show that Mr. Crossley has started his Shires, as with his Hackneys, in the right lines.

The Ontario Veterinary College will open its doors October 18, to commence its session of 1903-04. This well-known institution has won for itself the name of being the leading medium for obtaining veterinary knowledge in North America, and with its present efficient staff and capital management of Professor Smith it is bound to retain its popularity.

Banish the "Freak" and the "Fakir".

It is not an agreeable duty to criticise the management of some of our larger exhibitions, for we recognize how freely and unselfishly business men contribute their time and abilities to promote these annual gatherings of the people. At the same time, when they drift in a wrong direction, it is none the less a duty to frankly and fairly point it out. It is evident that the idea is now dominant that these exhibitions are for amusement, rather than for instruction and material progress, and here a fatal error is made. Being continually in touch with the thinking farmer of Canada, we but voice a growing sentiment of alarm at the way in which the side show, circus and horse race element has been pushed into prominence. The history of these things and their associations demonstrate that their inevitable tendency is demoralizing, especially to the youth. The alienation of the better class of the community from exhibitions run in this groove, and their decadence go hand in hand.

The excuse is made that the people, especially those of the city, *must have diversion*. To a certain extent the same might be said of the taste for sensational American Sunday newspapers, filled with scandal and crime, the taste for which was very largely created by avaricious publishers themselves. That there was ever any real necessity for such desperate efforts in providing so-called "attractions" for the fairs we are quite satisfied is a mistaken notion. The best British exhibitions—their name is legion—do not resort to any such questionable adjuncts, and if they did it would be no excuse for us. In proportion to the increasing sway of the jockey and the circus idea in fair management, so will the really meritorious features suffer and a positive injury be inflicted upon exhibitors, while in the end the exhibitions themselves will suffer financially, as well as in the directions we have already indicated. In the United States such has been the case, and history will repeat itself in Canada. It is no indication of a successful fair that the palatial "grand stand" be thronged, while a mere handful witnesses the products of Canadian farms, art and manufacturing skill. Better economise on the "freaks" and "fakes," and deal more generously in the prize list and on the grounds with *bona fide* exhibitors.

Was it any wonder, for example, that representatives of practically all the implement men in Canada held an indignation meeting at the late Western Fair to protest against the shameful way in which they have been shunted into a back corner, while mountebanks, snake charmers and scantily clad females flaunted themselves on the most prominent area of the whole grounds? Decent people could scarcely hear, see or move for the conglomeration of side shows. The agricultural implement men had just cause for complaint, and before another year their grievance will no doubt be redressed. That the directors, as a body, are responsible for this condition of things we do not believe, and we feel confident that these obnoxious features, and others which we have pointed out as detrimental to the true interests of exhibitors generally, will be relegated to their proper place.

By the adoption of systematic and business-like methods in conducting the fairs, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is free to congratulate those in control upon the decided improvements effected of late years, and before another show season we hope to be able to observe in progress other reforms that are equally necessary.

Canadian Cattle Restrictions.

Sir Charles Tupper, K. C. M. G., while recently in Winnipeg, was interviewed by a representative of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE relative to the scheduling of Canadian cattle. He very kindly gave the important facts regarding this matter, with which his earnest efforts to remove have so familiarized him, and which are of such vital importance to the cattle trade and the Dominion.

The order was made on the report of the Home Government experts, and although no pleuropneumonia was found by them in Canadian cattle, something slightly resembling it, which was in no way contagious, occurred in one or two instances. The Government, however, felt bound to act on the report of their experts, and restriction was the result. The embargo having been instigated, and thousands of pounds having been spent in slaughtering cattle and examinations, it has been difficult to remove it, as after expending the public money in this way they do not like to admit their error or the misappropriation. He said that he was confident he could produce such overwhelming testimony that the Government must give way, and the restrictions would be removed. When asked as to the time such might be expected to result, he said if not this season he was sanguine in the belief that it would be early next spring.

Agricultural Depression in Great Britain.

An English writer on this subject explains what classes are most affected by the present agricultural depression in England, and cites the case of his own estate by way of explanation. He purchased his estate several years ago, previous to which the land had been untenanted for four years, but the pasturage or summer feed had been annually sold at £400 per annum. Since he purchased the estate he has tilled one-third of the land and employed six or eight men, but he finds that the transaction has been a losing one. He has expended £1,200 in permanent improvements since it came into his possession, and yet in three years out of five he has been unable to make £200 per year, while in the other two a very little over this amount was cleared. On the other hand he claims if all were seeded down to grass the annual sale of pasturage would easily net him £350 per annum; and besides this he would receive sufficient money to buy fertilizers and employ a man to keep up hedges and other repairs, so that there would be no shrinking in value.

Now, the point he wishes to bring out is, that the landlords of England are not the people that suffer most from the present depression, but rather the tenant farmers and agricultural laborers; that gradually these classes are seeking employment in the towns or leaving the country on account of the unprofitable state of this industry, much to the loss of all concerned. He further points out that the abolished corn laws had indirectly given an impetus to manufacturers by lessening the cost of living for employees, and thus providing cheaper labor by which manufacturers could successfully compete in the markets of the world. While on the other hand, not only had agriculturists received less for their products, but landed proprietors and tenant farmers had burdens shifted unto their shoulders, by taxing improvements and other unfair means of raising a revenue, that profits had gradually decreased until there was a danger of having agriculture, one great source of national wealth, undermined.

Feeding Wheat.

The protracted drouth which has prevailed in sections of the country has caused a brisk demand for feeding stuffs, bran ranging almost as high as wheat. Surely little of this product will be used, except to extend concentrated grain feeds. Every one must know that the value of wheat for feeding, when fed wisely, must be very much superior to bran. It is true that bran is a very safe supplement, but a limited amount is all that is wise to feed while wheat is so cheap.

According to D. T. Thomas, Ind., who kept an accurate account of wheat fed and gain made by hogs during a ninety days' experiment, fourteen pounds of gain can be made from a bushel of wheat fed dry and unground, which would have shown a much more rapid increase had the feed been ground, as no doubt a considerable quantity escaped mastication, passing through the entire alimentary canal in the whole state.

According to experiments conducted by Prof. Robertson at the Dominion Experimental Farm, the conclusions arrived at were that fifteen pounds of gain can be made from a bushel of common wheat, and that wheat has a feeding value about ten per cent. in excess of corn. However, it is not wise to feed wheat alone. Corn, peas and oat supplements will make a much more nearly balanced ration. Wheat is rich in mineral matter, and contains more nitrogen than other grain, making it especially valuable for growing stock. It also gives good results when fed to dairy cows.

Says Professor Henry:—A good dairy cow will give something like a pound of butter per day, and eight pounds of wheat is a good feed of that grain, so that a bushel should last a week and furnish the concentrated feed for making something like seven pounds of butter. In this way this cheap cereal can be manufactured right at home into a profitable product; not only that, but practically all the fertility which was taken from the soil by the wheat will be left on the farm, which is a matter of great importance.

Patrons of Industry Handling Wheat.

The Patrons of Industry have decided to handle grain in earnest this year. Grand President Charles Braithwaite has been elected a member of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, and having secured offices in their building, is now prepared to handle the grain consigned to him by members of the society, and no doubt his ability and the experience gained last winter at Fort William looking into the wheat trade will be of great service to those who avail themselves of this privilege. We wish them every success in their enterprise.