

FIELD NOTES

Western Fair a Success

The Western Fair at London, Ont., this year, had a chance to show what would be the result with reasonably favorable weather. The outcome has been gratifying to all concerned. That the management was efficient in efforts to make the show par excellence from the standpoint of the agriculturalist, is demonstrated on the one hand by the large herds and flocks in the stables and the great display of agricultural products, and on the other by the uncomplimentary remarks of the loud-mouthed side-show sharks, who do not hesitate to assert in strong language that London shows are no good because the management makes fees for tent space and other privileges that meet their requirements so high as to take away the profits. Despite these railings from those whose sole tendency is to depreciate the value of any agricultural exposition, London Fair in 1908 was worth attending. That the general public appreciated its fair as a whole was evidenced by the gradual increase in attendance after the opening day.

Stately Clydesdales and light-footed roadsters made up important parts of a strong exhibit of horseflesh. Prizes in the various classes were satisfactorily placed, and, although the big money went to such stables as Graham-Renfrew Co., Miss K. L. Wilks and Dalgety Bros., there was a fair distribution of the ribbons, thus giving substantial evidence that the horsemen of only a few years' standing have secured the right kind of foundation stock.

CLYDESDALES

Always the pride of those who love a strong horse with quality, the Clydesdales at the Western this year did not fall below the mark. Graham-Renfrew Co., with Sir Marcus, sired by Sir Simon, and out of Bowfield, was at the top of the list, and two-year-old Top Spot, sired by Baron Hood, and from the same stable, did not appear to any disadvantage beside his older competitor when the sweepstakes awards were being made. E. W. Charlton, of Duncrief, placed the ribbons.

The following had fine animals in the Clydesdale stalls:—Graham-Renfrew Co., of Bedford Park; Dalgety Bros., of London; Chas. Bean & Sons, of Brinsley; Jas. Henderson & Sons, of Belton; T. E. Robson, of London; J. D. Ferguson & Son, of Mapleton; Jas. Robson & Sons, of Telfer; Thos. Delaney, of Ingersoll; Wm. Gray & Sons, of Mount Brydges; Fierheller Bros., of Mount Elgin; P. H. Petrie, of Stratford; John Campbell, of Hay; Wm. Young & Son, of Mount Brydges; Chas. Fallon, of Ballymote; Jas. Smellie, of Inwood; Alex. F. McNiven, of St. Thomas; J. F. Burr, of Waubuno; and S. J. Prouse, of Ingersoll.

The ribbons were placed as follows:—

Stallion, 4 years and upwards—1, Graham-Renfrew Co.; 2, Dalgety Bros.; 3, Bean & Son. Stallion, 3 years—1, Dalgety Bros.; 2, Henderson & Son; 3, T. E. Robson. Stallion, 2 years—1, Graham-Renfrew Co.; 2, Dalgety Bros.; 3, Ferguson & Son. Stallion, 1 year—1, Delaney; 2, Jas. Robson & Sons. Stallion, any age—Graham-Renfrew Co.

Brood mare, with foal by side—1, Graham-Renfrew Co.; 2, Fierheller Bros.; 3, Young & Son. Filly, 3 years—1, Petrie; 2, Campbell. Filly, 2 years—1, Dalgety Bros.; 2, Young & Sons; 3, Smellie. Filly, 1 year—1, Smellie; 2, Fierheller Bros.; 3, Fallon. Foal of 1908—1, McNiven; 2, Burr; 3, Young & Sons. Mare, any age—Graham-Renfrew Co. Stallion and three of get—Smellie. Pair geldings or mares—S. J. Prouse.

The display of Shires was not numerous. C. K. Geary, St. Thomas, was one of the principal exhibitors, winning the aged stallion prize and stallion championship.

CATTLE

Shorthorns were none too strong at the Western this year. The Robsons, of Ilderton, G. H. Oke, Alvinson, Burr, of Blyth, and H. Fairbairn, Nedford, made up the entire exhibit. The London fair, in respect to cattle, is badly situated. The lightness of the prize money offerings at London, as compared with the fat list hung up at Toronto, where the breed society duplicates the fair board's provision, probably accounts mainly for the lightness of the showing of this class at the Western Fair, while the uncertainty as to who or how many will come on with exhibits from the show deters local breeders from fitting and bringing out selections from their herd. The result of it all has been, for the last two or three years, a slim show in numbers at London of this important breed, only one of the herds shown at Toronto showing at London.

Aberdeen Angus were the best represented of the beef breeds, the Bowman herd from Guelph putting up the strongest display, and winning the female and herd championships. Lowe, of Elora, won the bull championship. The other beef breeds were forward in good numbers.

Dairy cattle were represented in all breeds. Bull & Son, Brampton, made the largest individual entry in Jerseys, and got, as usual, the largest share of the prize money. Ayrshires were shown by R. Hunter & Sons, Maxville, A. Hume & Co., and Wm. Stewart, the two latter of Menie, Ont. In Holsteins, the chief

exhibitors were G. W. Clemens, St. George; Dunkin & Hulet, Norwich; and C. E. Smith, Scotland, Ont. The majority of the prizes, as at Toronto, went to the Clemens' herd.

SHEEP

The eight breeds of sheep shown at Toronto were all represented here, the display being one of the best ever seen at the Western Fair, high-class quality and good fitting being the rule in every class, while the judging was, on the whole, more than usually satisfactory.

Leicesters were well shown by James Snell, Clinton; Hastings Bros., Crosshill; and O. Turnbull, Walton, the majority of first prizes, including both championships and flock prize, going to Snell, whose entries stood high in the rating at Toronto, and were of high-class type and quality, and well fitted, as, indeed, were nearly all in the class.

Lincolns were well shown by John T. Gibson, Denfield, and Campbell & Lethbridge, Strathburn. The Denfield contingent came out in fine condition, as usual, being full of quality in flesh and fleece, and showing grand evidences of constitution and thrift, and handling firm, while sound and active on their feet.

Shropshires made an excellent showing in the hands of John Lolyd-Jones, Burford; W. D. Monkman, Bond Head; and W. E. Wright, Glanworth, the exhibition throughout showing approved type, fine quality, and first-class covering, the majority of the principal prizes going to the Burford flock, though Monkman had the champion ewe and first-prize pen of lambs.

The Importance of Grain as Brain Food

It has been repeatedly demonstrated by the most eminent doctors in every country that the cereal grains contain food for man of the most nutritious value; but another curious and interesting circumstance has of late appeared in a publication, which will certainly raise the estimation of grain food very considerably, or at least should certainly do so, in the eyes of the masses, besides which it will give a certain impetus to the disciples of the Darwinian and vegetarian schools. As has been said, up to the present the value of grain as regards its bodily nutriment for man has not been disputed, but that grain, directly and indirectly, should have raised us from apedom to our present perfection, perhaps only a few were aware of. Those that held fast to the doctrine that every nation must be barbarous unless grain forms the principal feature in its staple food, will find themselves sadly disappointed in the views expressed by Dr. Gerland, in his book entitled "Anthropologische Beiträge," because we not only find in it advocated that grain-food has undoubtedly raised us not only to our present perfected shape, but has also imparted the sense of understanding to our brain, and thus made us the all-supreme in the animal creation.

So far as history extends, wheat-eating nations have always been, are still, and are likely to be, dominant; therefore, though other varieties of food should be jealously retained, there can be no doubt of the importance of wheat as the prime basis of diet, and the equal importance of securing its best possible preparation in the form of bread. For the last three or four thousand years we have undeviating testimony to the superior strength, energy, force of character, and inevitable dominance of the wheat-eating people, bearing a striking contrast to rice-eating races. Nevertheless, science, has received a valuable contribution by the publication of "Anthropologische Beiträge." In the latter we find that the author argues that man was undoubtedly developed from a lower animal form, and, taking this as his starting point, argues in what conceivable way these creatures developed themselves through the last brute stages into humanity. Though need may have been there as a spur to exertion, the great elements of progressive development were well-being and leisure. Now this prosperous state of life could only be attained by help of a permanent supply of some suitable food, available all the year round. This, Dr. Gerland maintains, was not animal food, for the supply of game is too irregular, and can only supplement the vegetable dietary on which a settled population must mainly depend. What then was the indispensable element of this vegetable diet?

Dr. Gerland, in his book, dismisses such tree-fruit as cocoanuts and dates, and roots such as yams and potatoes. He will not even be satisfied with the whole mixed diet of a wild-forest tribe, with its miscellaneous items of berries, roots, insects, eggs, small creatures of the land and water, with an irregular supply of fish and large game. With all this, the prae-man or first man would not have risen perhaps beyond apedom. To develop him to man's estate required—grain. Suppose, then, a primæval, not yet human tribe, in some warm region where cereal grasses grew in close patches, self-sown crop succeeding crop perpetually. The creatures munched at the ears till they came to the primitive form of threshing by knocking out the grain against a stone. Then they watched the seed fall and sprout and the new plant ripen, till they learnt to assist nature by sowing it themselves. Thus, developing muscle and brain with abundant food, which gave their life comfort and rest, our ancestors rose gradually, but in a direct line, from the condition of lower animals to that of agricultural men, whose condition in this respect was

most like that of some modern African tribes, whose grain-food is supplied by a bountiful soil and climate, with slight tillage of the rudest sort. Somewhere near this stage of mental development primitive men learnt to use and produce fire, which a low half-apeish race of creatures would never have the sense to control or benefit by. Thus, according to Dr. Gerland, an agricultural stage is to be reckoned the earliest in the history of civilization, but when in process of time, hordes, pressed by need, wandered off into the wilds and lived by hunting, they lost the means and the very memory of agriculture, and degenerated into absolute savages. So much for a short outline of Dr. Gerland's views.

It will be seen that Dr. Gerland, in giving such exclusive importance to grain food as an agent in developing mankind, underrates the value of fruits and roots, which, in favourable regions, furnish supplies of food all the year round. Not much as yet is known of the laws of connection between food and mental development. But one might reasonably fancy that if any dietary would lead an ape up into a farm labourer, this might be done by the regular and plentiful South Sea Island fare of fish, bananas, cocoanuts, &c. Such plants might both have furnished nourishment in their wild condition, and have suggested their own cultivation, almost as well as any wild cereal, such as the ancestor of wheat or maize. Secondly, as to the theory that the agricultural stage came before the wild hunting and fishing stage. On Dr. Gerland's own hypothesis, the prae-human beings at one time fed principally on the seed of wild plants. But creatures living in this way would also have gathered whatever eatable fruits and roots were to be had, and would also have killed and eaten whatever animals of land or water could be easily come by. If it be granted that for these purposes they used sticks and stones (as animals so intelligent would no doubt have done), then this is tantamount to saying that they got their living from wild vegetables and animals in somewhat the same way as other uncivilized tribes, though with ruder appliances. It is really putting an exceedingly low savage state down so early in history as to come not only before the agricultural stage, but before the full development of man himself. Thus Dr. Gerland's argument hardly tends to alter the order of progression now generally received by anthropologists, viz., that men lived on wild produce, such as seeds, berries, roots, insects, reptiles, fish, and game, before they attained to the art of planting which brought them to a settled life. The effect of the hypothesis, if proved to be true, would be to take away from human life the two first stages of what we are used to call civilization, and to transfer them to the remote ages when the ancestral animals had not yet developed into men.

It will be seen from the above what importance, after all, the argument gives one as regards the value of cereal plants in relation to human food and development. It is certainly a subject deserving the greatest attention. We have it on record that wheat was derived originally from Egypt, and from this the inference is irresistible that the ancient Egyptians were the first people who relied mainly upon it for subsistence, their earliest imitators being the nations of Palestine and Persia. Even in China, wheat was known at least 3,000 years before Christ, and consequently much earlier in Egypt. The stimulus thus given to the physical development of mankind in those countries is sufficient to account for, and seems to explain, the very remarkable comparative superiority of the inhabitants of that part of the globe during a long period, extending over countless generations. And so also we equally find the key to the explanation of a subsequent decay of those nations, in their too exclusive reliance for many ages on a particular kind of grain as their principal food, without combining with it other varieties of substances which are so essential to the multifarious and infinitely subtle forces which go to make up the complete creature—man. It would rather be a strange anomaly and illustration of the weakness of humanity to imagine, that we should have been raised entirely by grain-food from the lower animal grade to our present state of brain development, which we in our comparative perfection now use for principally employing savage animal sustenance for our present existence; and we could, therefore, on the above theory, argue with equal right, and put the pointed question, Shall we thus, consequently, return to apedom?—*Practical Confectioner and Baker.*

Lake Rates Advanced

Wheat rates from Port Arthur and Fort William were advanced last week and contracts are being made for the transport of grain from the head of the lakes to the seaboard, for seven and one-half cents per bushel during the season's rush. During the summer, lake rates to Montreal have been as low as three and one-half cents, but this rate was a special cut and boat owners claim that to them it has been little short of ruinous. The low rate brought a good deal of business to Montreal and crippled the New York export grain trade pretty seriously. But it is becoming evident that rates shortly, and for the remainder of this season anyway, will be about the same as formerly.