

# FARMING

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## Seed Growth and Selection

The statements on this subject advanced by Prof. Robertson and Dr. Saunders before the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons open up a wide field for useful discussion and we would like to hear from some practical farmers on the subject. The experience of those who have been operating the same farms for a number of years should serve to throw considerable light on some of the claims which these two authorities have set up. The question as to which is the better method for the farmer to adopt in order to secure good seed is a very important one indeed and is deserving of the fullest discussion. The value of the crop to a very large extent depends upon the quality of the seed sown.

In our correspondence column this issue will be found two letters dealing with this subject. One is by Mr. T. C. Wallace, who is well qualified to discuss such matters, and the other by Mr. D. M. Macpherson, whose wide practical experience makes anything from his pen of interest and value. Mr. Macpherson in his letter makes a very practical proposition, which if carried into effect would do much to demonstrate some of the more modern theories advanced for the benefit of the agriculturist. Whether the Professor and the Director will accept Mr. Macpherson's offer we are not prepared to say. The plan is certainly a practical and feasible one, if the three gentlemen concerned are willing and can find time to undertake the work. It would certainly put the theories advanced to a practical test and be the means of showing what can be done when advanced views are put into operation under conditions as they exist on the average Canadian farm. But be that as it may, the whole question is an important one that we would like to see fully discussed and for which purpose these columns are open.

## The Royal Show

### A Short Summary of What Took Place at England's Great Show During the Third Week of June

The English exchanges which came to hand last week contain elaborate reports of the Royal Show, which began on June 17th at Maidstone in the south of England and closed a week later. The attendance owing to the rather out-of-the-way place at which the Show was held was below the average, resulting in financial loss to the Society under whose auspices the Show is held.

As a numerical representation of British live stock it cannot rank with a good many shows which have preceded it, but the quality was just about on a par with recent years. The light horse classes were weak in number, but there were some excellent hackneys and ponies. The heavy horse division was a good average for a district far removed from the breeding headquarters, especially of the Shire and Clydesdale, the Suffolk being more numerous than usual. The cattle and sheep, however, were both numerous and representative and there was a very creditable show of pigs. Altogether there was really a good muster of the live stock considering the district in which the Show was held. Next year's Show takes place at York, where a much better representation of visitors and live stock may be looked for.

In the light horse classes there were 257 entries in the forty-three classes, which is small as compared with other years. Of these the hunters and hackneys were out in the largest numbers, and there were very many excellent horses included among them, Mr. C. E. Galbraith's Rosadora winning the female championship in the hackney classes. The display of Cleveland bays and Yorkshire coach horses, though not a great one, was very satisfactory. There was an excellent collection of polo ponies, a breed that is fast becoming popular in England. There was about the usual entry of harness horses and strong competition. Heavy horses were not out in usual numbers, with the exception of the Suffolk. There was a good representative show of Shires. Had all the entries been in their places there would have been an excellent show indeed of this breed, but as it was after the veterinary inspectors had been through several of the classes only from four to eight animals returned to the ring for final adjudication. The Clydesdales compared well with the other breeds, considering the distance which the breeders had to come. If the numbers were not so large as other years the quality compensated for them. The best division was that of brood mares, in which Mr. Herbert Webster's Lady Lothian was at the top. The Suffolk classes were well filled, and there has not perhaps been a better representation of this breed at the Royal. The classes of agricultural geldings were disappointing.

Although it would not compare favorably with the Birmingham or Manchester displays the show of Shorthorn cattle was, all things considered, a very creditable one. There was a large entry, but an unusually large number of the animals entered were absent. In the old bull class Alto, by Excelsior, was first. Two-year-old bulls were but a moderate class, with Count Beauty first winner. He was bred by Mr. Durhie and is sired by Golden Count. In the yearling class Mr. J. Dean Willis was first with Bapton Emperor, a wonderfully compact and thick-fleshed bull. The cow class was a small one, but a quartette of really good animals receiving the principal tickets. Herefords made a good display. In old bulls Tedstone President, by Royalist 3rd, won first place. The female classes were small though excellent in quality. There was a fair display of Devons, so far as numbers were concerned, but in most cases the quality was good. The Sussex cattle were never better represented at the Royal. The show of Aberdeen-Angus was a striking testimony to the steadily increasing popularity of the "Doddies" in England. The entries numbered forty-five in all, and with only one exception the whole of these animals were from herds of the breed in the South of England. The quality was also good, and some bulls of very superior merit were shown. On the other hand the Galloways were not largely represented, but though small in number contained some of the most noted champions of the breed. The classes for dairy cattle were not numerically strong, but some very good types of the various breeds were shown. There were only a few Ayrshires shown. Mr. Andrew Mitchell, who almost swept the boards, was the only exhibitor in the younger classes. The show of Jerseys, though a good one, especially in quality, and with a large entry, was not so large as has been seen when the Royal show has been held in districts in which this breed is so extensively kept. The Guernseys, though on the whole large, and in the cases of most of the classes very satisfactory in quality, was in one or two instances somewhat weaker than was