

In the Old World Shows of this kind have long been in use. They are held in every county. But besides the local Shows, which date back very far, there have been National Exhibitions held by the Royal Agricultural Society since 1862. One was held that year at Battersea, in the neighbourhood of London. The latter Shows of the Society have been at Taunton in 1875, at Birmingham in 1876, at Liverpool in 1877, at Bristol in 1878, and again in the neighbourhood of London, at Kilburn, in 1879.

It will be seen that the Exhibitions migrate from one agricultural centre to another, on much the same system as that adopted here.

It is satisfactory to perceive in these Shows the same kind of progress which marks our own. The entries increase in number year by year. They were doubled between 1875 and 1879.

If numbers were to be taken as the test, we would compare not disadvantageously with them. The entries at Bristol in 1878 were of—

Horses	350
Cattle....	443
Sheep.....	397
Pigs	164

Making in all.....1354

At this Exhibition the similar entries are—

Horses	208
Cattle	407
Sheep	251
Pigs	33

Making in all..... 899

So that as respects the Stock yard at least we may well be gratified to find the comparison in point of numbers so favorable.

The London Exhibition of the present year was on a much larger scale than that of Bristol. The entries, as regards the articles already enumerated, were 2,874, or more than double those of the previous year. Great efforts were made to give eclat to the Kilburn Show, but never were such obstacles to be encountered on such an occasion. For a week preceding the opening there was one incessant pour of rain, which converted the ground into an absolute mire. The "Times" of the first of July winds up a description of the scene by saying that "A witness of wide experience testified that the slough of despond at Kilburn exceeded the mud field of battle at Balaclava—in respect of the difficulty of transport to be effected, and the degree of discomfort to the men engaged in the delivery—of the loads of machinery. Some traction engines worked their way through the mud, and now stand with their wheels resting on at least three feet of thickness of timber, which has been pressed down by the weight into the soft soil.

An Exhibition held under such disadvantages of weather and ground, could hardly be a success, notwithstanding the great preparations and the largely increased entries. But somehow Englishmen get through any difficulties, and the mind of Kilburn, like the mud of Balaclava, only called forth the pluck for which the race is noted.

An old and rich country like England is the place where the greatest improvements can be made in stock. Men of wealth think nothing of expense compared with the reputation of being the owners of the best cattle.

In my recent visit I spent a few days at the country seat of a nobleman of high rank,

who takes great interest in stock raising. While there I examined some of his cattle with some care. He had upon the estate some sixty cows and fifteen bulls, all pure bred Shorthorns, of the finest type, besides a lot of young cattle of the same breed. The prices paid for some of these animals will give an idea of the lengths to which men of means will go to become the possessors of choice stock. The Duke of Underley the 3rd, a Roan Bull, cost the proprietor \$15,760. The Marchioness of Oxford 3rd, a white Cow, \$9,500, and Waterloo the 33rd, a Red Roan Cow, \$6,300.

Two of the calves, about three months old, were valued at \$5,000 each. One of them, when I was there, was slightly indisposed. It showed some symptoms of feverish excitement, when straightway professional advice was called in. Two distinguished veterinary surgeons attended the patient. They felt its pulse, examined its tongue, and prescribed for its ailments; they waited upon the little sufferer with great care and attention. If the patient had been human it could not have been better cared for. I am inclined to think in that case a single physician would have been considered ample. In a country where such sums are lavished in the purchase, and such care taken in the preservation of stock, the natural result is the production of the finest specimens. These will far surpass the average character of the class. Probably the entries of the great Exhibition are confined mainly to very choice animals. Any others could not stand competition. This may account for the fact, which strikes us with surprise, that in the English shows the entries in respect of cattle should be so few, compared with the whole of the stock of the same kind in the country.

There are one or two matters connected with this Exhibition to which, before closing, I would like to call your attention.

In the great Exhibition of 1854, not a single specimen of thoroughbred cattle appeared among the entries.

Only five years ago, at the Exhibition held here, there were but 49.

To-day you have 216 of that class. In five years they have more than quadrupled.

At the first Exhibition cattle were shewn only in single specimens. A herd consists of six, and no man owned enough to entitle him to exhibit a herd. To-day we have eight herds on our entries. Of these three are Short Horns, three Ayrshire. These breeds are evidently the favorite of our farmers, the Short Horns for beef, and the Ayrshires for milk and cheese.

One herd of Devons and one of Jerseys, shew that other valuable qualities have attracted the attention of some growers.

Herds of Short Horns, Ayrshires and Devons, have been entered at previous Exhibitions, but this is the first appearance of a herd of Jerseys.

The system of registry for pure bred cattle was introduced in Nova Scotia in 1868. It began, as may well be supposed, on a very modest scale. There were three of the leading breeds admitted to registry.

So far as the printed Herd Book enables me to judge, there were registered:

	Bulls.	Cows.
Of Short Horns.....	5	3
Devons	3	1
Ayrshires.....	2	4
	10	8

In all 18 animals. Besides these there were two Hereford Bulls, but these do not appear to have been favorites; there being none of the breed registered since 1868.

There was not a single animal of the Jersey breed on the register of that year.

In a single decade the number in the Register has swollen from 18 to 592.

Deductions must, of course, be made for those that have died—but on the other hand there are probably enough entitled to registry, but from carelessness, or other reasons not put on the list—to restore the balance.

The number of grade cattle in the Province, composed of a mixture of the pure breed with the common cattle of the country, is very large; of these there appear among the entries on this occasion:—Of Special Grades not pure enough for Herd Register, 48; and of commoner Grades, 143—in all 191.

In every county of the Province the Common Breeds are more or less improved by this intermixture.

I might extend my remarks to other branches of farm produce, but I purposely confine myself to cattle, because first, that is one of the most important in reference to our immediate future, and for another very valid reason, that I have already trespassed as far as I dare upon your indulgence.

Let me only say in conclusion, that the gentlemen who from time to time have interested themselves in getting up and carrying out these Exhibitions, may look with pride on the success which has attended their efforts. They have truly served their country by the work they have done, and are entitled to the lasting gratitude of the people of Nova Scotia.

Among the names we must associate with this great progress, are, in the past, the late John Young, pioneer of Agricultural Science, and the late Dr. Forrester, the pioneer of Exhibitions.

Of those still living we owe much to a number of excellent men who have devoted themselves to the improvement of our agriculture, and whom it would be invidious to particularize—but I trust an exception will be allowed in the case of Col. Laurie, the energetic President, and Dr. Lawson, the indefatigable Secretary of the Board of Agriculture. I am sure a grateful country will never forget any of the men I have named or be insensible to the great benefits derived from their exertions and those of their fellow-laborers in the cause of Agriculture in the Province.

HON. MR. HOLMES

then addressed the assembly as follows:—I would not at this time have dreamt of making any remarks at all, were it not for two reasons. In the first place it was announced in the newspapers that an address would be expected from me; and in the second place, because His Worship the Mayor has been pleased to allude to the Government in such terms as to require from me an acknowledgment on their behalf. It need not be a matter of alarm to any person here present, nor need any one suppose for one moment that I am going to make a speech; for I have more prudence at this stage of the proceedings than to impose such an infliction upon you. With regard to the Government, I can say that we feel proud of the energetic manner in which the City Council of Halifax has