

## Stock at the Western Fair.

## HORSES.

The exhibition of horses was all that could have been desired for our Western Fair, both in point of numbers, variety and excellence; the extensive range of stabling being entirely filled with the ponderous Clydesdales, English shire-horse and Percheron, as well as with those of gentler blood, the farmers of the western peninsula showing their determination to improve the breed of horses by importing some of the best animals that can be procured. The superiority of the English shire-horse is at last recognized, there being some magnificent animals of that class on the grounds.

Mr. Hiram Walker, of Walkerville, was well to the front with many of his splendid animals, notable amongst which was the celebrated stallion Romulus, which commanded great attention. Mr. E. H. Coryall, of Petrolia, exhibited his magnificent carriage stallion Victor Goldust, winner of first prize and diploma at Toronto; he is a splendid animal, possessed of a most docile temper, and taken altogether is one of the finest horses that ever looked through a bridle.

Mr. R. J. Turner, of Brucefield, showed Farmer's Glory, a 3-year-old imported English draught horse—a magnificent animal—weighs 1,950 lbs., and winner of many prizes.

Mr. Coleman, of Brucefield, had a very fine 2-year-old English cart mare, imported.

Messrs. W. & J. Peters, of London, exhibited the beautiful blood stallion "Lord Byron," one of the best thoroughbreds in Western Ontario.

Mr. Thos. Logan, of Brock township, showed "Ranting Robin," a general purpose stallion; he is a grand horse, and winner of 21 first prizes.

Mr. Wm. Samsburn, of Blanchard, exhibited "Charley Ross," an imported Clydesdale; he took first prize in the heavy draught class.

Messrs. Horton & Innes, of Hibbert, Perth county, showed a splendid Clydesdale mare, only imported two weeks ago; she took first prize in her class.

Mr. Jas. Collier, of Beachville, exhibited a magnificent pair of roadsters which took the prize of \$50 for the best pair of roadsters in harness.

Mr. Thos. Robson, London Township, had a very fine draught horse "Prince Tom," imported last year; he is sorrel colored, and as this color is not fashionable it was not in his favour.

Messrs. Swarty & Meek, of Peachfield, had a fine 2-year-old imported Clydesdale, "Nero," a very fine animal. Also a 3-year-old shire horse, "Prince of the Forest," one of the finest animals upon the ground.

## CATTLE.

Taken as a whole the exhibition of this class fell short of that of former years, in point of numbers; there were, however, some excellent cattle exhibited. In fat stock Messrs. Groff, of Waterloo, showed some splendid specimens, notably a couple of steers weighing respectively 2,600 and 2,500 lbs., illustrating what Canadian farmers can do.

The show of Shorthorns fell short of our expectation, there being few animals of high merit exhibited. Messrs. Groff, of Waterloo; E. W. Chambers, of Woodstock, and J. & W. Wyatt, of Wellington, being the principal exhibitors; the latter showing their celebrated bull "Barnpton Hero," which won the gold medal at the Provincial Fair at Kingston.

The Devons were prominently represented by two exhibitors, Mr. A. Wood, of Islington, and W. & J. Peters, of London. The former had nine head of all ages. They were all in fine trim and showed good feeding and careful handling. The Messrs. Peters, old time breeders, were forward with a large herd, and noticeable were some aged cows of rare merit. The competition was not as strong as in former years, but the animals were choice.

The Herefords were represented by Mr. C. Bridges, of Shanty Bay. The animals exhibited were few in number, but this was fully compensated for by the excellence of those exhibited; this gentleman, by judicious selections of the prize winning animals in England, has placed his herd at the head of this class on the continent, for merit.

## AYRSHIRES.

The competition in this class was limited principally to Mr. Caswell, of Ingersoll, and A. Kains, of Byron. This class of animal does not seem to gain in favour with our farmers, their lack of beef-making qualities being greatly against them.

There were no Jerseys upon the ground, our Canadian farmers finding it more profitable to breed general purpose animals, than wholly for the dairy.

We were rather surprised that there were no Polled Scotch cattle on exhibition, as they are now in such demand in the States. The prizes offered should have been sufficient inducement to owners of this class to have made an exhibit.

## SHEEP.

Were the best represented live stock on the ground, and it is doubtful whether there has ever been a better exhibit in Canada.

The Cotswolds were well represented, the entries were very numerous, the animals were very large, and with heavy fleeces. In this class Mr. Jas. Main, of Trafalgar, had a large flock of good animals, principally imported. Mr. E. W. Chambers, of Woodstock, had 14 head. Mr. Henry Arkell, of Guelph, shows 17 head. Mr. Jas. Franks, Dorchester, had also a large collection.

The Leicesters looked well with their fleeces of long, clean wool. Among the principal exhibitors were H. Snell, of St. Helens, with 12 head; J. Scott, London, with 10 head; H. Rawlins, of Bosanquet, had 9 head in good order, and R. W. Stevens, of Delaware, showed six good animals.

The Lincolns were a very choice lot, showing some fine, silky wool, long and of good staple. The prominent competitors were Mr. Walker, of Ilderton, with 26 head, among them a magnificent ram weighing 400 lbs., winner of first prize at Toronto, and a pair of ewes weighing 613 lbs.; Geary Bros., London, had six head imported from the principal flocks in England; Mr. John Rowell, of London Township, also exhibited 12 head of first-class animals.

Southdowns were numerous; although but two competitors, Messrs. D. Perley, Township of Paris, and Mr. Rondison, of Galt; the former showed 31 head, and the latter 13; in this class there were some animals of very indifferent merit.

Oxford Downs were well represented, some splendid sheep being shown, principally by Mr. J. C. Ross, of Jarvis, who had 13 head in fine trim; Mr. P. Arkell, of Teeswater, showed 12 head, and Mr. Henry Arkell, of Guelph, 10 head.

The Shropshires were a splendid lot, mostly imported stock; these and the Oxford Downs bid fair to be the popular sheep in Ontario, both for their wool and mutton. Mr. Humphrey Snell, of Clinton, exhibited 5 head; Mr. Frank Shore, of Westminster, showed 10 head; Geary Bros., London, had 5 head; C. Bridges, of Shanty Bay, had also a large exhibit in this class.

Mr. Rock Bailey, of Union, county Elgin, had a splendid exhibit of Merino sheep. There was no prize offered for this class. This was to be regretted, as we ought to encourage the home production of fine wool instead of importing it.

## SWINE.

The entries in this class were not very numerous, but comprised some very fair animals, the Berkshires being the largest exhibit. The Suffolks also made a strong show. The largest animal was an immense Yorkshire boar weighing about 800 lbs. The other classes of pigs were well represented, showing good breeding and feeding.

## Care of Horses.

The care and breeding of horses, says Dr. Loring, Commissioner of Agriculture at Washington, is a difficult and doubtful business. The horse holds a position in the scale of being which makes him peculiarly sensitive from his embryo life upward, to all surrounding influences. The fact that but a few generations are necessary to change almost his entire structure in order to conform to a change of climate and soil, is sufficient evidence of the ease with which his race may be modified by the accidents about him, or by the designs of his master. Suffolk pigs, Shorthorn cattle, terrier pups can be bred to order. Not so the horse. He is a bundle of forces, moral and physical, either class of which may be disturbed by influences almost beyond our control. A calm, courageous, docile, intelligent mare, bearing a colt sired by a stallion equally well

balanced with herself, may be subjected to sudden fright; she may fall into bad hands and be lashed to madness while pregnant; she may have her attention fixed upon some ignoble companion, and the character of her offspring be so different from her own or that of its sire that she is ashamed of it (or ought to be), and her owner despises it. Every man knows that some families of horses are easily broken to harness, in fact have a natural gift in that direction, and take kindly to the strap and the shaft; and that other families are rebellious and violent and almost untamable. Now, these qualities may easily be transmitted, and they may easily be destroyed. A rough master may upset all the virtues of generations and unexpectedly find himself the owner of a colt inspired with all the wildness and savagery of its remote ancestors. It is a good deal to ask, I know, but if a man means to raise up a good tempered and civilized family of horses he must be good tempered and civilized himself.

It should not be forgotten that the care we bestow upon our horses will always meet with its reward. This care should never be suspended from infancy to old age. The colt which is born upon the farm can easily receive the kind treatment which is bestowed upon the other animals there, and may be so fed and handled as to control the real value of all his future life. The American horse is subjected almost from his birth to the kind of influence which surrounds the home of his master, and under this influence it may be found, when the time comes for him to enter upon his work, that he is so docile and obedient that the business of what is usually called "breaking" him is simple, easy and safe. That he should be fed well seems almost useless to say. The care he should receive during the first winter of his existence often effects the entire development of his whole system. It is possible that many colts are overfed, and that the easy and cheap supply of corn from the great Western cornfields has had a tendency to overload the horses bred upon those farms with fat at the expense of their muscular system; but a colt should never be starved. He should be kept in good growing condition, having access to the cold fresh air whenever he desires it, and be supplied in abundance with pure water. He should never be stinted in hay or whatever other forage plants may be provided for him, and this system of feeding should be pursued until he has reached that maturity which makes him truly valuable to his owner. The young horse requires a large amount of bulky food, and should never be deprived of this with the expectation that a large supply of grain will be a good substitute. It cannot be. Whether a young horse be put to the dray, on the road, or even upon the track, he should be fed with a liberal allowance of good hay, and not until he has reached his maturity should he be confined to those stimulating foods to which his stomach and nerves are then adapted. Of the health of the horse—especially the horse engaged in hard work, whether in the city or country—we cannot be too careful. The loss of a horse is a great loss to the ordinary farmer. The loss of a good horse is a great loss to his owner whatever his business may be, and it is a matter of economy, therefore, so to protect the horse against disease that his time will be constantly at our command and his usefulness prolonged. It is very seldom that a horse when he is sick can be worked with impunity. The best remedy for his disease is undoubtedly fasting and rest, and this remedy should be provided for him as soon as it is discovered that he is in any way indisposed. A word with regard to stable management of the horse seems to be appropriate here. I have already said a horse cannot endure all the toil that is imposed upon him with impunity unless he is properly and thoroughly cared for. One of the most valuable points in the horse is his forefoot. Almost all the lameness which troubles our horses on the road is to be found here. The forefoot is exposed to all the ill effects of hard roads, bad shoeing, and bad care in the stable; and it will be found that more horses are crippled in their forefeet than in any other part of their locomotive system. Splints and spavins are common; but splints and spavins somehow or other are very apt to take care of themselves. The fatal lameness which renders a horse utterly worthless is that found either in the navicular bone or the laminae of the forefoot. Now, it is undoubtedly true that no shoeing will protect a horse's foot against the ill effects of hard roads, rough pavements, the heat of the street and the strain of travelling, unless that foot is properly cared for in the stable; and if the foot is thus properly cared for it is astonishing how much