

classes, Quick Bros., of Royal Oak, won the championship prizes, while Bishop & Clark had everything their own way when it came to females. A. H. Menzies & Son, Pender Island, also took some of the tickets in the Jersey classes.

J. T. Maynard, of Chilliwack, B. C., exhibited Red Polled cattle. He had twenty-five head entered, with no competition. His animals would hold their own in strong competition.

SHEEP AND SWINE.

Victoria had a sheep exhibit that might easily rival the one at Toronto. A strong entry came forth in all the classes, and the animals shown were a credit to the breeds they represented. John Richardson, of Port Guichon, was one of the largest exhibitors. He was there with Cotswolds, Oxford Downs and Hampshires. A. T. Watt, of Victoria, had a long entry of Southdowns. He had a number of the winners, but he was followed hard by H. D. Evans, of Somenos, B. C., who had some really good representatives of this mutton breed. Horatio Webb, of Sardis; Max Enke, of Galiano, and G. H. Hadwen fought for honors in the Shropshires. J. T. Maynard, of Chilliwack, was a lone exhibitor of Dorsets. Washington Grimmer, of North Pender Island, B. C., contested the Hampshire classes; while T. Davies, of Ladner, exhibited some pens of fine Oxford Downs. It is predicted that British Columbia will become one of the greatest sheep-raising countries in the world.

There was a good swine exhibit in quality, but the numbers were not large. W. M. Bamford, of Chilliwack, was the only exhibitor of Tamworths; while J. T. Maynard stood alone in the Essex classes. Horatio Webb, of Sardis, and Max Enke, of Galiano, divided honors in the Yorkshire and Berkshire classes. The Portage Inlet Ranch, of Strawberry Vale, B. C., exhibited and won some prizes in the Yorkshire classes.

The men who made the awards were judges of known repute. Geo. Gray, of Newcastle, Ontario, judged the horses. He was supported by Wm. Elliott, of Galt, Ontario. Professor Grisdale, of Ottawa, made the awards in dairy cattle, sheep and swine, while Mr. Elliott judged the beef cattle.

Western Grain for Eastern Feeders.

Many people are undoubtedly under the impression that growing wheat is Western Canada's forte. Certainly wheat is the principal grain raised, but that is because the price has been low for other grain. A few years ago oats would sell for from 15 to 25 cents per bushel. Indeed, I was told that only six years ago they sold at one place for 10 cents per bushel. Barley generally brings 5 cents per bushel more than oats. At these prices it would take a load of oats to bring as much as a load of hay or wood. As better prices are now being paid for barley and oats, the tendency is to increase the acreage. It is recognized that these grains are much less risky in certain districts in regard to frost. Oats will stand several degrees of frost more than wheat without serious injury, and barley matures much more quickly than wheat. I noticed one of the friends I visited had more oats and barley than wheat, and I asked him his reason for growing these grains. He said he had his wheat frosted two years, and that sickened him of growing it. But another friend, in a district where they had no injury from frost for 15 years, was inclined to increase his acreage of barley, as it gave the land a change, and wheat did better after barley. The only fear he had was that if they grew too much barley the price would drop away down again.

Very large yields are claimed for barley and oats—50 to 60 bushels per acre for barley, and 60 to 80 of oats. This seems to smack of the prairie—rather wide. I rubbed out one head of barley, pulled at random from a sheaf in a 60-acre field, and found I had 53 kernels from the one head. At another place, on the edge of a field, where it was thin, I selected two of the largest heads, and found there were 76 kernels in one head and 79 in the other, from which it seems that the claim for large yields is not a "stretcher."

As about three times as many bushels of barley and three to four times of oats can be figured to grow on the same land as wheat, and as these crops are much less risk, it would be wisdom on their part to grow more of these grains, providing the price was adequate. Not all the land sown to these grains yields so large, for the very good reason they do not get as good a chance as the wheat.

In many districts it is considered risky to sow wheat after the 20th of May, whilst these other grains are sown up to a month later, and some, indeed, is sown in July, and there was some good grain sown that late in districts where the rain sufficient rain, but in other places, where the rain did not come at the right time, the late-sown grain ripened up with the early-sown, and was not good at all. But given nearly as good a chance as the wheat, from three to four times the yield may be looked for. From this it would be clear

that grain to feed and fatten stock can be grown to good advantage.

These Western farmers are grain-growers rather than stockmen, and for several reasons they are likely to remain so for many years. They do not have to manure the land to secure good crops, which is what Eastern Canada has to do. No use telling them that the soil will soon run out. I was shown fields that had been cropped 25 and 30 years, and they were as well covered as any; in fact, the best I saw.

Fortunately, or the reverse, as we may look at it, the Western grain-grower has to contend with a great many weeds (of which wild oats are the worst), so that to keep these down he summer-fallows every three or four years, and as this land is not plowed until after seeding, the last of July or August, by that time there is a great crop of weeds to turn under, and this green manure is really the easiest way to fertilize this land, considering the cheapness of the land and the dearth of labor. Then, again, there is not much encouragement from the price the farmer received for stock. I asked a man what he could get for a good fat cow he had for beef. He said 2 cents per pound, live weight. Even good steers can be purchased for 2½ cents per pound in the fall, and as these steers, or most of them, are still raised by sucking their dams all summer, it will be seen there could not be much in them at that price. It would seem as if money could be made by feeding them, but here again the farmer is imposed upon. Owing to so few being fed, there is no competition for the fat animals. One of my relatives does feed a lot of steers each winter. He built a fine stable for the purpose, but found on coming to sell his steers he was unable to get the price he thought they should bring, and so shipped them through on his own account to England, and after paying all commissions and expenses, realized \$300 more for his steers than he was offered at Winnipeg. In other words, a dealer wanted as much profit to handle his steers, having his money in them for a few weeks, as the farmer would make on them in as many years. Small feeders could not ship their cattle or sell so well, and would be at the mercy of the buyer. The Canadian farmer, either west or east, is not like the Russian serf, to be imposed upon. He is a man of intelligence, and has a pretty good idea whether he is getting what should be coming to him. In fact, the Western men seem to be decreasing their number of stock instead of increasing. An Alberta packer claims stock is so scarce that they will soon not have enough to furnish meat for local consumption, and I have no doubt, with the increased price for grain, less stock will be kept, as selling grain is the quickest and easiest way of getting the money, which the whole world is after. The Westerner does not consider loss of fertility; the Eastern farmer has got to consider it, and here is where the Eastern farmer and Western can work together to their mutual advantage. The Western grower would like to grow more barley and oats, and the Eastern stockman has got to have such feed at a reasonable price, if he is to feed more stock. There is no use telling farmers to feed more hogs and cattle under present conditions. Of course, the price for meat is high, and likely to remain so for some time, for reasons we cannot go into now; but then the price for feed required to finish hogs is scarce and high. If as many hogs were being fed in Ontario to-day as were, say, three years ago, what would the price

of their grain ration be, or by spring? The point, then, is to secure an adequate supply of feed. The Western men can grow it; the next thing is to get it to the Eastern feeder's hands without undue cost. There must not be three or four middlemen and elevator charges to come in between and take an unholy profit out of the deal. The Western farmers now have a good organization to dispose of their grain; and our farmers can, through this company, get what barley they want at a small commission, and it seems to me anyone who can handle a carload, or several farmers joining together could secure feed at a cheaper rate from the West, and better feed than the refuse of the mills that is now being fed. It would pay the Western farmers to have their organization do a little advertising in the East at this time, and an increasing trade could be built up yearly. If our feeders know they can secure this feed each year, they can plan accordingly, and if the Western men know there is a demand in the East for this grain they will assuredly grow more, and it is to show the Eastern man how it is to the advantage for the Western man to grow barley and oats rather than wheat, and thus give him confidence as to the future supply, that I have dilated at this length. There are many things grown in the East—fruit, etc.—that the Western man would gladly like to have, providing they can be secured at a reasonable price, and this part will call for further space. The present methods of doing business give altogether too much to the middlemen, enhance the price to the purchaser, and greatly restrict the amount sold to him. GEO. RICE.

Silage Good to Feed Now.

From a number of quarters the question is asked whether silage may safely be fed as soon as the silo has been filled. It may. We have repeatedly stated that fact in these columns, but many readers seem either to overlook or forget this, as well as other information. More careful reading would spare us the necessity of much tedious repetition.

Silage is at its best the first week after it has been put into the silo. At this stage the fermentation process has only begun. A trace of alcohol has developed, giving the material a pleasant aroma, similar to that of fresh cider. There is no difficulty whatever in getting any animal to eat freely of this freshly-ensiled material, and a cow may be safely fed all she will consume.

"But will the silage keep as well?" the novice anxiously inquires. And the answer is "Yes, better—providing."

The proviso is that a reasonable quantity, say 1½ or 2 inches in depth, be removed each day; that it be taken up carefully with a square-mouthed shovel, and that the layer beneath the one removed be left level and compact each time. These precautions observed, there need be no loss whatever by spoiling, except, possibly, a very little around the edges near the top. Bear in mind that special care is required in removing the silage, particularly if a small quantity is used per day. The corn at the top, prior to settling, is not so compact as it will be later, and if loosened needlessly will be more liable to mold.

We are aware that various authorities have stated that silage needs to cure six weeks or so before it is ready for feeding, but the assertion must have been made on speculation, or on the



Prince Imperial =72511=.

First-prize 2-year-old, and senior and grand champion Shorthorn bull, at Canadian National Exhibition, 1909. Owned and exhibited by W. A. Dryden, Brooklin, Ont. Sire Prince Gloster =40988=.