

There was a fine exhibit of fruit, due, no doubt, to the fact that round the city of Hamilton lies some of the best fruit growing country in the Dominion.

Ottawa Central Fair.

(By Our Own Correspondent.)

The greater efforts put forth by the authorities of the Ottawa Central have met with their reward, for a success in every sense was their exultation of this year. Through the inducements offered, which were stronger than those of past years, exhibitors from the west and surrounding country were attracted in greater numbers than at any time heretofore.

The Ottawa valley being more of a horse raising centre than a breeding ground for any other class of live stock, it is but natural to infer that the horses were there in greatest profusion, and more particularly the light classes. A few thoroughbreds were shown by Mr. R. Thompson, A. Blyth and others, but the carriage horses surpassed the other classes in numbers. In the carriage stallion class first went to J. J. Anderson, second to Holmes Bros., of Winchester, third to P. Campbell. Mr. Anderson's horse also won the diploma for the best stallion any age. The principal exhibitors of standard-bred horses were J. Erratt, R. Stewart, McGuire Bros., and A. C. Burgess. The first mentioned, with Gothard Jun., a get of St. Gothard, won first in four-year-old class, and diploma for best stallion of any age. In the heavy draught classes several well known stables were represented, including that of R. Ness, of Howick, Que., and Thomas Good, Richmond. The latter, with Jock Elliott and three of his get, succeeded in winning the most important prize offered in the class. J. Clark had also some prime stock, which secured several leading prizes. In the aged stallion class first went to J. Clark, second to A. T. White, and third to R. Ness. The latter forged ahead in the three and two-year-old classes, by winning first in both cases, with J. G. Stewart second in each also. Thomas Carlisle, captured the first in yearling stallions. The gold medal and diploma for the best pure-bred Clydesdale stallion, two years old and over, was won by J. Clark. For brood mare and foal, first went to G. Carlisle, second to R. Robertson, and third to R. Ness. Mr. A. T. White secured first on best mare, and also a like honor with heavy draught team. There were a number of Percherons shown, the leading prize winners being P. Mackintosh, Campbell & Dobbin, and W. & R. Bell. Of Suffolk Punches, J. Melvin captured the best prizes, while others, including J. Fletcher and A. Hagar, came in for a small share.

The majority of the cattle classes were well filled with good representatives, which made the competition strong in most instances. From the west the only Shorthorn herd was that of Messrs. J. & W. Russell, of Richmond. As this herd stood high at Toronto Industrial, it was but natural to see them capture the leading prizes here. Every inch of ground was strongly contested by the herd of Messrs. W. C. Edwards & Co., of Rockland, which came out in good bloom. Between these the principal prizes were divided, others going to Messrs. D. P. McPhail, Thomas Graham, Forth & Sons, A. T. White, and J. S. Clarke. The only herd of Herefords on exhibition, was that of Mr. E. W. Judah, of Crompton. The Polled Angus were represented well by a selection of black beauties from the herd of Dr. Craik, of Montreal. In Galloways, Thomas McCrae, of Guelph was the only exhibitor. In the class for Devons, W. G. Rudd, of Eden Mill, made an almost clean sweep, his only competitor being C. Mohr, who won the first on a young bull in the class for two-year-olds and upwards. Of beef grades, the leading exhibitors were T. Graham, J. G. Clark, W. H. Reid, and J. Armstrong. Grades of the dairy breeds were exhibited by Messrs. Clark, Kennedy, Fowler, and Storr. The Ayrshires made an excellent exhibit, the best of any in the cattle classes. The most successful exhibitors were J. Drummond, Petite Cote, W. C. Edwards & Co., Rockland, Joseph Youill, Carleton Place, and T. Brown, Petite Cote. Mr. Drummond won the most of the first prizes, including first on his stock bull and first for the best herd. Amongst the others the prizes were well divided. The Holsteins were represented by several new breeders, principal amongst whom may

be mentioned Joseph Fletcher, Thomas Davidson, and a former exhibitor, F. H. McCrae. Mr. Fletcher made a very creditable display, and led in nearly all the contests, and included amongst his prizes that of the diploma for the best bull of any age, and the head prize. Mr. Davidson won first and second on bull calves, and Mr. McCrae first on aged cow. In Jerseys, W. A. Reburn, of St. Annes, took the lead in all sections without much competition. Other exhibitors were Messrs. Eddy, Fowler and Storr, and Caldwell. The Hon. J. J. C. Abbott made a clean sweep in the Guernsey classes, his herd being the only one entered.

The sheep made a good display, not only in quality but also in respect to numbers. In Cotswolds, C. Neville and J. Nesbitt were the only exhibitors. The prizes were almost evenly divided, the balance being slightly in favor of the former. The Leicester breeders turned out in good numbers. Messrs. E. Sommers and R. Shaw, fresh from the Industrial, were here met by Forth & Sons. Mr. Sommers led in every instance, and in many cases made a clean sweep in the class. Lincolns were represented by W. Oliver, (who won the leading prizes in nearly every contest), R. Shaw, and C. W. Neville. In Shropshires the leading winner of awards was Messrs. W. C. Edwards & Co., while Messrs. Hagar and Hutton captured a few. Peter Arkell led in the Oxfords, with his noted flock, in competition with some good sheep shown by Messrs. Kemp, Gilmore, and Neilson. Of Merinos, the strongest exhibitors were R. Bailey, who was the most successful, R. Shaw, and L. D. Loyd. In the Southdown class, R. Shaw made a strong record by capturing all the prizes with but two exceptions, namely, in the ram of two shears, of which second went to C. W. Neville, and second on shearling lamb, which was won by G. Whelan. In the class for fat sheep, P. Arkell won the silver medal for the best flock bred and owned by exhibitor, and J. Kemp had the high honor of winning the special prize of a Shropshire ram, generally awarded by John Dyke, the government agent at Liverpool, for the best pen of ten sheep suitable for export.

In the pig class, though the number of breeds represented was not large, yet the individuals were good. The Berkshires were strongest, the exhibitors being Messrs. A. Stewart, W. C. Edwards & Co., E. B. Eddy, Sheriff Hagar, and J. C. Bedlow. Of white pigs, Messrs. C. W. Nevill, Andrew Gilmore, J. G. Clark, W. Allan, and A. Bufton, were the leading exhibitors and prize winners.

FOR THE CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

Mature Sires.

By D. McCRAE.

The use of very young animals as sires by breeders is an evil that prevails largely in Canada. It has been so much in favor that in some lines of breeding and amongst some classes of stock it has come to be an almost universal practice. The result is an impaired vitality and a much greater predisposition to disease. "Animals bred from parents that are very young, with a system imperfectly developed, will inherit a condition of the system that predisposes to attacks of disease from slight exciting causes," says Miles in "Principles of Stock Breeding," p. 136. Such a system is carried on for any length of time, produces the most unfavorable results. It is admitted that this applies with more force to the produce of very young females than to males, but the same result is reached by the use of young males. While the evidences are not so quickly seen, the results are none the less sure.

Among cattle breeders in Ontario, few have sires in use three years old. A very large number use yearlings and two-year-olds, and feed off these at three years. Very few if any of these animals are fully matured till they are three years old. Were the heifers bred at the same ages the fatal effects would very soon be noticed, as it is some will not admit that it is an evil at all, and continue the habit without counting the cost.

There are several reasons why young sires of the better breeds are preferred to mature ones. They are easier handled when young. Some bulls become cross as they mature, and require more careful handling. Others become heavy and sluggish. These are drawbacks, but they must be met and overcome

if our stock of bees is to be kept up to a high standard of excellence. A large experience with one of the beef breeds convinces the writer that a very small percentage of bulls become untidy if carefully and kindly handled. Those predisposed to this have always shown it before maturity, and since such qualities are inherited, such animals should not be kept as stock sires. Now that extra weight is a drawback rather than an advantage, very large sires are not as desirable as they were in the years gone by, when the larger and heavier the animal the better the price obtained. Quality more than quantity is now called for, and very large animals are not needed. When you have a good sire keep him, and rather exchange for an equally good old bull than try an immature untried youngster. Many pedigreed sires have got their best produce from five to ten years of age.

So much for the herds, what about the flocks? There are still some flock masters who will use ram lambs. It is a mistake. The older rams are better. The breeders of the hardy black-faced breed have had quite a fight over this question in past years. Mr. Howatson, of Glenbuck, a very celebrated breeder, championed the use of ram lambs. He has been forced to acknowledge that he was wrong in this, and that his flock have deteriorated in consequence of the practice. The system has now been abandoned by all the leading flock masters of Scotland, and the reason given is that "ram lambs are far from being mature, and it is useless to expect that they will leave such good stock as will (other things being equal), be got by a sire which has got full opportunity of developing his powers before being used." The black-faced breed were well adapted for a thorough test of this matter. They are kept on high, rough, and exposed ground, the very place where a lack of vitality would most quickly show itself. The result fully demonstrated the fact that ram lambs as sires were a failure. Let us profit by the experience of others, and see that our sires are not only good in breeding and quality, but that they are fully matured.

FOR THE CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

Aberdeen-Angus Cattle.

By THOS. MCFARLANE, Secretary American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association.

There is absolutely little known regarding the origin of this hornless breed of cattle. They are indigenous to Scotland and to the north-eastern districts in which they are found. How, or at what period in their history, the hornless feature was established is all a matter of conjecture. The Aberdeen-Angus cattle have been reared in the high, dry, and cold climate of the north-east of Scotland, on the highly cultivated farms and in the hands of the most skillful breeders who have had in view the production of a beef animal that would meet the demands of the feeder and the requirements of the butcher—that would be an easy and even feeder at an early age and supply the very best quality of beef and the most of it in the valuable parts, and with the least offal. These objects secured, it matters little as to the origin of the breed. Having been skillfully and judiciously bred and handled so long, they have an acknowledged fixity of type excelled by no other breed. That they have been a fixed breed for centuries is demonstrated by the fact that when crossed with pure horned breeds the progeny are in nine cases out of ten hornless, and black in color. As a breed they possess great individuality. They are of strong constitution; hardy, docile, fine-boned, uniform in color, with a long round symmetrical body on very short fine limbs.

They are easy keepers and mature early. Vigor of constitution gives them especial value as a pure breed for breeding purposes. The females often continue regular breeders to twenty years of age; Pride of Aberdeen 7th, 901 (1711), now in her twentieth year suckling her calf, illustrates this quality. The breed is excelled by none for crossing purposes, and in this respect fully meets the universal desire to remove horns without resorting to the saw and chisel, transmitting in addition their superior beef and other individual characteristics. A breed that can stand the blasts of the east coasts of Scotland must be hardy and vigorous and well fitted to withstand our winters. The well-sustained popularity of the Aberdeen-Angus breed of cattle in England, Canada, Australia, New