

The Provincial Winter Fair

The Provincial Winter Fair, held at Guelph last week, was very little different from its predecessors of recent years. The attendance was about the same as a year ago, though the total number of exhibits was a little in advance. The quality throughout was of a high order, a marked improvement over recent years being shown in several sections. A somewhat condensed report of the exhibits follows:

CATTLE.

The exhibits in live stock showed some falling off in the number of cattle brought out, but a decided improvement in the quality of the exhibits. The export steers were, perhaps, the best that have been exhibited yet. The Shorthorn and grade Shorthorn steers were a splendid lot. The exhibits of W. R. Elliott, Jas. Leask, J. Brown, A. Hales and others were a credit to any show, and in the breeding classes the Shorthorn heifers shown by W. B.

type, carrying the flesh just where it is wanted, a first rate handler, without an ounce of waste flesh about him. He was a grand illustration for visitors of what the highest development of beef type really aims at. The champion of last year was out again on exhibition, and is still in fine condition, weighing about an even ton of well placed beef, with little or no waste in sight.

SHEEP.

The exhibits in the sheep pens were record breakers, and both in point of numbers and quality this department was this year an unqualified success. In a number of the pens could be seen winners at St. Louis, and numbers of those that had got things their own way at Chicago were also out, sometimes to face harder competition than they did in the territory of Uncle Sam. In the Cotswolds J. C. Ross, of Jarvis, Snell & Lyons, Snelgrove, E. Brien & Sons,

SWINE.

The classes in swine were very strong, the entries being more numerous than last year, and the quality right up to the mark. As usual the Yorkshire bacon hog is still the centre of the most attraction and interest among the visitors to the show, although the other established breeds of Ontario still have lots of friends that are unwavering in their adherence to their approved breeds. The first prize for bacon hogs went this year to R. F. Duck & Sons, of Port Credit, who also won a goodly share of the other prizes as well. Mr. J. E. Brethour, the veteran winner of other years, was out good and strong, but had rather too heavy an aggregation to face in the exhibit of Mr. Duck. It is only fair to say, however, that the winners were sired by a boar of Brethour's breeding. Mr. Duck also won sweepstakes for bacon carcasses.

A good show of Berkshires were out, the leading exhibitors being J. Kelly, of Shakespeare, Snell & Lyons, Snelgrove, W. Wilson, Brampton, J. S. M.



A pair of beauties. Tiny Maude, son-yearling, and Queen Ideal, son-heifer calf, winner of first prize at Chicago International, where \$1,500 was refused for her. Owned by W. B. Watts, Sons, Salem, Ont.

Watts' Sons, Salem, Ont., and Geo. Amos, Moffat, were exceptionally good. In Shorthorn cows first was won by W. Fleming, London, Ont., with Watts second and Geo. Amos third. The three were animals of fine quality, the third prize winner being a valuable imported cow of grand individuality and breeding. Fifteen hundred dollars had been refused by Messrs. Watt for the winner in the heifer class when she won first place at the late International at Chicago.

Among the Hereford and Angus steers honors were divided between J. H. McDougall, of Galt, Jas. Bowman, Guelph, and the Stone Stock Co. Some very finely fitted animals were to the front. Galloways and Devons were shown together with first honors to D. McRae, of Guelph, and W. J. Rudd, of Eden Mills, Ont.

On grades and crosses of any breed Jas. Leask, of Greenbank, won first honors in the two-year-olds, with J. Brown, of Galt, first in the yearlings. Jas. Wilson & Sons, of Fergus, had an easy first for heifers any breed in their splendid Shorthorn heifer Rose, a splendidly fleshed and typical animal that was very carefully fitted and well shown. In the export steers Jas. Leask had out three Shorthorns that were just about perfection in quality and fitting. There was close competition and the class was a splendid one. The champion over all comers was the good Shorthorn steer shown by J. Brown & Sons, of Galt, a steer of perhaps less scale than the winner in this class last year. He is, however, of good scale and splendid

Ridgetown, Rawlins & Bailey, Forest, all had out good strong pens of big, strong, sturdy-looking sheep that were the centre of attraction for many prospective investors. J. T. Gibson, of Denfield, and L. Parkinson were competitors for honors in the Lincolns. The Leicesters had a number of representatives, Hastings Bros., Crosshill, John Kelly, Shakespeare, John Orr, and Whitelaw Bros., of Guelph, and David Roger, of Ayr, all with sheep out in a bloom that showed that each of them knew their business, and of a kind to reflect credit on the owners and the breed they belonged to. Only two representatives of the Oxford were out, being J. W. Lee & Son, of Simcoe, and W. E. Wright, of Glanworth. Their exhibits were good representatives of this large Down breed. The leading champions of the Shropshire were on deck with pens of the kind that is making this breed famous and the competition between John Campbell, of Woodville, and R. Gibson, of Delaware, was as keen as ever, while Lloyd-Jones Bros., of Burford, and A. Rudell, of Hespeler, had some excellent pens, the competition being particularly strong in the yearling classes. In the South-downs Drummond contingent had the best lot, but had keen competition to face from the exhibits of J. Jackson & Son, Algodon.

The champion wether was found in the Drummond pens. A number of the pens showed their long season at the exhibitions, but the wethers were a more fresh lot, and in fine bloom.

Cowan, Atwood, and R. J. Kerr, Minosa. Both barrow and breeding classes showed lots of choice stuff, and the place occupied by the Berk in public appreciation is not losing ground. Chester Whites were represented by D. DeCourcy, Bornholm, and W. E. Wright, of Glanworth, and Tamworths by D. Douglas & Sons, of Mitchell, Ont.

THE DAIRY.

In the dairy department the pure-bred in evidence were the Jerseys and Holsteins and there was a goodly company of them all deep in milk. A number of Shorthorn grade cows were also out. The champion of the day was a Holstein grade shown by P. D. Ede, of Oxford Centre, a veteran at dairy tests in Ontario. The winners are given on page 950.

The Carcass Sales

All the carcasses at the Winter Fair, including the dressed poultry, were sold at auction. John McHardy, Guelph, bought the entire lot of hogs, weighing about 15,000 pounds, at 6½ cents. The beef was sold in the half carcass and brought from 9 to 15 cents. It was a Shorthorn carcass that brought 15 cents. The average price paid was about 10 cents. Lambs brought 8 to 11 cents, and sheep 5½ and 6 all round. One Ottawa man paid 15 cents for a big lot of turkeys, but some went as high as 18 cents. Geese averaged a trifle over 8 cents and chickens brought all the way from 50 cents a pair up to \$1.40. Ducks were in demand at about 15 cents and brought up to \$1.10 a pair.