

ROYAL COUNTIES SHOW.

Taken as a whole, the Royal Counties Show, held at Maidenhead the last week in May, was a thoroughly representative one.

HORSES.

The classification does not give a section for Shire horses, but follows the somewhat out-of-date method of giving classes for what are termed Agricultural Horses, but practically all the leading winners were of the Shire breed. The entry was not large, but the quality was very good. Dancesfield Stone Wall and Shustoke Monarch were first and third in the aged-stallion classes for Mr. Hudson, the former taking the champion prize as best stallion. Mr. F. A. Muntz, with Dunsmore Franklin, was second. In the two-year-old class the competition was better, and King Forest won leading honors and reserve number for champion for Mr. F. E. Muntz, King of Tanbridge and Buscot Victor being second and third for Mr. Michaelis and Sir A. Henderson. The brood mares were a good lot, Blythwood Laurel leading the way for Mr. Hudson, followed by Norbury Early, owned by Mr. M. Solomons. The winner here was reserve number for champion mare, being beaten by Mr. Muntz's Aldeby Lady Jameson, first in the three-year-old class, whose closest competitors were Alexandra of Tanbridge, owned by Mr. M. Michaelis, and Dancesfield Confidence, owned by Sir A. Henderson. In a good class of yearling fillies, Mr. Salomons and Lord Winterstoke, with Norbury Juno and Rickford Ladybird, went first and second.

CATTLE.

Shorthorns take precedence in the cattle classification, and the competition was very good in most sections. Evanger and Bapton Viscount were winners of the Shorthorn Society's prize and its reserve for the best bull in Berkshire, Wiltshire or Hampshire, the former owned by H. M. the King, and the latter by Mr. J. Deane-Willis. The old-bull class was headed by Elevatham Monarch, from Lord Calthorpe's herd, H. M. the King taking second with Enchanter, and Mr. R. Taylor reserve with Royal Beaufort. In two-year-olds, Royal Windsor won first and champion honors as best male of the breed for H. M. the King. This is a beautiful roan, and well grown. Mr. R. Taylor's Baron Linderstorm, a white, took second honors, followed by another white, Mr. Willis' Stone Crop as reserve. In yearling bulls, H. M. the King's Evander, reserve number for champion honors, was first, followed by Bapton Viscount. In the cow class, Lord Calthorpe's beautiful Roan Sweetheart was clearly first, Mr. R. Taylor's Don-side Princess following. The latter exhibitor, with Pitlivie Rosebud 2nd, won first honors in a good class of two-year-old heifers, and also champion honors with the same typical heifer. Eva, a roan of fine type and character, was second for H. M. the King, and her herd mate, Marjorie, another roan, won first in the yearling class, and was made r. n. for champion honors. Mr. Willis took second, and Lord Calthorpe's Elvetham Sweetheart was r. n. The dairy Shorthorn classes, two in number, were well supported, and there was very keen competition in both. Mr. G. W. Taylor won first honors in the older class, followed by two entries of Lord Rothschild's that were second and r. n. In the younger class, His Lordship was first with a fine roan cow, whose position was closely challenged by a roan Waterloo cow owned by Mr. C. A. Scott-Murray, which was second, with Mr. C. Adeane as third.

There was a grand entry of Aberdeen-Angus, both in respect to number and quality; in fact, the strength of competition, as well as the number of entries, shows how popular this breed is becoming in the south of England. The bull Idelmeare won first honors and champion as best animal in the class, and the gold medal for the same, for Mr. T. H. Bainbridge; Everwise, Mr. J. J. Cridlan's excellent bull, took second honors. In the younger class, Sir G. Cooper was first and second with a grand pair of bulls. The winner was Black for Ever of Ballindalloch, and his herd mate, Premier of Hursley, was second, leaving the reserve number to Mr. W. G. Greenfield's Royal Justice of Haynes II. In the cow class, Mr. Bainbridge's Eileen of Abergeldy was first, followed by Darling of Haynes II., owned by Mr. Greenfield. The class of heifers was a remarkably fine one, and its winner, the Rev. C. Bolden's Veratis of Preston, was a particularly fine and well-grown heifer, and well deserved its champion honors. Messrs. Bainbridge and Greenfield were second and third.

There was a very good and typical entry of Herefords. H. M. the King, with Admiral, won first honors for old bulls, followed by the Earl of Coventry's Lama. The younger bull class had Mr. D. A. Thomas' Samson for its winner, followed by his herd mate, Kaiser. Madam, the Earl of Coventry's beautiful cow, was winner in her class. A like position in the two-year-old heifer class was occupied by Mr. W. B. Tubb's entry, Princess Beatrice, and Mr. J. Rowlands won first honors in the yearling-heifer class.

The entries in the Jersey classes were very large indeed, Lord Rothschild winning champion honors for bulls with Oxford Wrangler, and

Messrs. A. Pocock and A. Miller Hallett were winners in the other bull classes. Lord Rothschild, with Frolic, took the champion prize for females; this is a very beautiful yearling heifer. Mr. A. Miller Hallett, A. Pocock, Earl of Rosebery, Lady Smythe, Lady de Rothschild, were amongst the other leading winners.

The entries in the Guernsey classes were good, and the competition keen. Mr. H. F. Plumtre, with Roland of Seaview 10th, won first and champion honors in the old-bull class. Messrs. E. A. Hambro, F. Hargreaves, J. Pierrepont Morgan, E. St. Aubyn and Lady Tichbourne were the other leading winners.

A choice lot of Kerrys and Dexters were present. Lady Greenall and G. L. Farmer were the principal winners in the former. The Duchess of Devonshire, Hon. Mrs. C. Portman, Mrs. S. A. Lee, etc., were the leading winners in the latter. The dairy-herd competition was an interesting one, and brought in an excellent entry.

SHEEP.

The Hampshire Down entry was a remarkably fine and good one. Champion honors, as well as special for best pen of lambs, was won by Mr. James Flower. This breeder, together with Mr. T. F. Buxton, Sir W. G. Pearse, Bart., Messrs. H. C. Stephens, Cary Coles, and the Marquis of Winchester, were the principal winners.

The Southdown classes were well filled with a thoroughly typical entry. Champion honors for best exhibit, together with the gold medal for the best male, went to Mr. C. Adeane, whose yearling ram, two-shear ram and ram lamb were specially good. The Duke of Richmond won champion honors for females with a grand pen of yearling ewes. His Grace was also second for both yearling and two-shear rams. Sir T. V. S. Gooch was first for ram lambs with a remarkably fine pen. The Exors. of Col. McCalmont were represented in the lamb classes with some remarkably good lambs, and their shearling ram was a grand one. The Duke of Devonshire was also well to the fore, and the exhibits made by the Duke of Northumberland, Sir J. Werner and Mr. J. Colman were of high merit.



Border Leicester Shearling Ram.

Winner at leading Scottish shows.

Sir Richard Cooper and Mr. A. Tanner shared the honors in the Shropshire classes, with very typical sheep.

The entry of the Kent or Romney Marsh sheep was a remarkably good one. Mr. Charles File won first honors for both yearling and two-year-old rams, and also second for yearling ewes. In this class Mr. William Millen was first, and Mr. J. B. Palmer won second honors in the yearling ram class with a very typical sheep. Mr. F. Neame was third in the two ram classes, and v.h.c. in that for yearling ewes.

A choice lot of Oxford Downs represented this breed, and Mr. J. Horlick won first honors with a particularly fine ram. He was also second for yearling ewes, in which class Mr. Jas. T. Hobbs was first, the latter breeder being second for yearling rams. Mr. G. Adams won first honors in the ram lamb class, as well as second, with first-class pens.

The Dorset-horn entry was highly satisfactory, and the leading winners were Messrs. E. A. Hambro, who won for yearling rams and ewes; Mr. W. R. Flower, who was second for yearling rams and first for ram lambs; and Mr. F. J. Merson, who was second for yearling ewes.

SWINE.

The entry of Berkshires was a remarkably good one, numbering 84 pens. Mr. G. T. Inman's Highmoor Mikado, last year's winner, again repeated his success, and also won special as best boar of the breed. The Duchess of Devonshire, Mr. R. W. Hudson and Lord Calthorpe were the other leading winners for boars. The last-named exhibitor

won first with Elvetham Fancy in the young-sow class, and with this exhibit took the special prize for the best sow, and also the champion prize for the best Berkshire. The Duchess of Devonshire, Mr. R. W. Hudson, and Mr. J. Jefferson were also winners.

The Large or Middle White section was a small one. Mr. C. Spencer took leading honors for boars, and Mr. R. M. Knowles for sows.

W. W. C.

RECOLLECTIONS OF A SHEPHERD.

Born on a bush farm in Ontario, in the first of the forties of last century, among my earliest recollections is that of the lambs in my father's flock gambolling in the sheepfold in the balmy springtime. It was then I learned to love sheep, and my affection for the gentle, innocent "golden-hoofed" has never waned, but rather grown stronger with the passing of the years. And it is a constant mystery to me that in the early years of the twentieth century, with a growing demand for mutton and with market prices per pound higher for lambs than for any other class of meat-producing stock, sheep are so sadly neglected in Canada, a country in which the conditions for raising and feeding sheep to advantage are equal to those in any other land under the sun, and superior to those in most of the countries in which sheep husbandry is a prominent industry.

THE DOG NUISANCE.

I do not believe I am a pessimist, and I am loath to believe that the country is "going to the dogs," yet, if one were to judge by the tenor of some of the letters that have appeared in "The Farmer's Advocate" in the last few months, apologizing for and pleading the cause of the canines, on account of their usefulness, one might be led to doubt whether dogs, which are the most serious menace to the industry to-day, are not of more benefit and importance to the farmers of the country than are sheep, and should be protected by law instead of their owners being taxed to provide a fund from which to indemnify flockmasters for losses from the destruction of their property by these brutes. For my own part, I think I may say, without boasting, that I farmed fairly successfully for thirty years, sheep-raising being to me the most profitable branch of the business, without the assistance of a dog or feeling acutely the need of such assistance. Though I kept more sheep than most farmers, my own losses from the depredations of dogs were practically nil, but I am free to acknowledge that I believe my voluntarily acting as undertaker at private funerals for more than the average number of prowlers put out of business by one man, probably accounts largely for my immunity in that respect, and my admitted prejudice against dogs in general is due principally to memories of terrified, torn and bleeding, and not a few dead innocents seen in the flocks of neighbors that had been worried by midnight marauders in dogskin.

It seems to me that if there is a case in which a man is justified in taking the law into his own hands and protecting his property, it is where the authorities, at the mandate of selfish people, or on account of their indifference, decline to afford him reasonable protection, and I have never experienced any compunction of conscience over the removal of "Wandering Willies" of the canine class, for I have observed that nearly every dog-owner believes, or at least professes to believe, that his dog is a good one, quite incapable of doing damage to a neighbor's flock, and will defend his reputation for good behavior even after the circumstantial evidence against him is sufficient to have hanged a human. I recall an instance where a flock-owner was repeatedly subjected to losses from the worrying and destruction of his sheep by dogs, and when he was sure he had recognized one of the dogs leaving his field in the morning, after a night of murderous work, as belonging to a neighbor, the neighbor indignantly denied that it was possible, as his dog never left home. The next night the sufferer placed some mutton treated with strychnine, as a preservative, in his field, and on the following morning found three dogs there that had evidently died suddenly, one of which was the harmless creature of his neighbor, who, on being confronted with the information that his dog had again been found in the field, stoutly protested that it could not be so, as his dog had been shut up in the woodshed all night. Of course, dog-owners will say it's a mean and cowardly act to put out poison, but what can a man do when the public tacitly take the part of the dogs against him. The trouble is that so many people who have no use for a dog fancy they cannot be happy without one, and dogs that have nothing useful to do are liable, like idle men, to get into mischief. My father managed a five-hundred-acre farm in this country for twenty-five years or more without a dog, but a hired man living in a house on the farm felt that he needed one, and indulged his fancy as a free man in a free country by securing a bull pup, which grew into a powerful brute, and as some sheep-killing had occurred in the neighborhood, he was more than