

swinging in their most thrilling act, and the Midway, filled with the latest amusements and most wonderful sideshows, the splendor of which is painfully exaggerated by the harangue of the spielers—yet, with all these and hundreds of other counter-attractions, the horse show draws a great crowd of admirers. There are among the many breeds and types of horses animals which are admired by all classes of humanity. The greatest variety of conformation and type, from the smallest of ponies, scarcely larger than a Saint Bernard dog, to the massive drafter, with his ton of bone and muscle, and the great variation in style, from the long, gliding stride of the Standard-bred classes, to the extremely high, trappy action of the best-trained coacher or Hackney, form an exhibit which cannot fail to please the most fastidious. What feature is more educative than a study of the different breeds of horses, and where is there a better opportunity of making this study and comparison than at a high-class show where all breeds are represented by the best individuals of each particular breed that the country can produce? It may be that you are thinking of establishing a stud, and are not fully decided as to what breed you will choose, or you may need horses for a certain kind of work, and have several types or breeds in mind. If such is the case, visit the horse exhibits at a few of the big fall shows, and there is no doubt that, from the high-class animals of the various breeds which you see there, little difficulty in making the selection will remain. Almost every person who knows anything about horses at all has a particular fancy for some one particular breed, and every breed has its exponents. It is always well, however, to become as familiar as possible with all the various breeds, and to this end too much time can hardly be spent by the horse-lover around the judging-ring and in the barns. Only the high-class animals receive a place in the awards at the bigger shows, and it is well to study the characteristics of these animals carefully, because by so doing the most improved type of each breed can be fairly well fixed in the mind.

Animal life and breeding always holds much of interest, and the horse is the highest type of domesticated animal, so it is little wonder that the exhibit of horses receives so much attention at fall exhibitions. Not only do the uninitiated derive much benefit from studying the exhibits, but the breeders and exhibitors themselves are inspired

to go on and further improve the animals in which they take so much pride. It gives them an opportunity of comparing their stock with that of the other breeders, and to the trained eye and alert mind this opportunity is very valuable, because the owner is able to see just where in his stock is weak, and can form ideas as to what would be the best methods to follow to improve the stock in his possession. By concentrating the mind on the horse exhibit, ever observing all the different points possible in connection with it, and endeavoring to learn something not already known about this the most valuable of the different classes of live stock, anyone who has any love for the faithful and noble horse, whether he be farmer, horse-breeder, shop-keeper or manufacturer, can spend a considerable time to good advantage among the horses, either in the

for suspicion of unfairness or partiality have been few, and, in some cases where the work may have appeared to have been faulty, inconsistent, or unjust, allowance should be made for difference of opinion in regard to type or relative values, and other conditions.

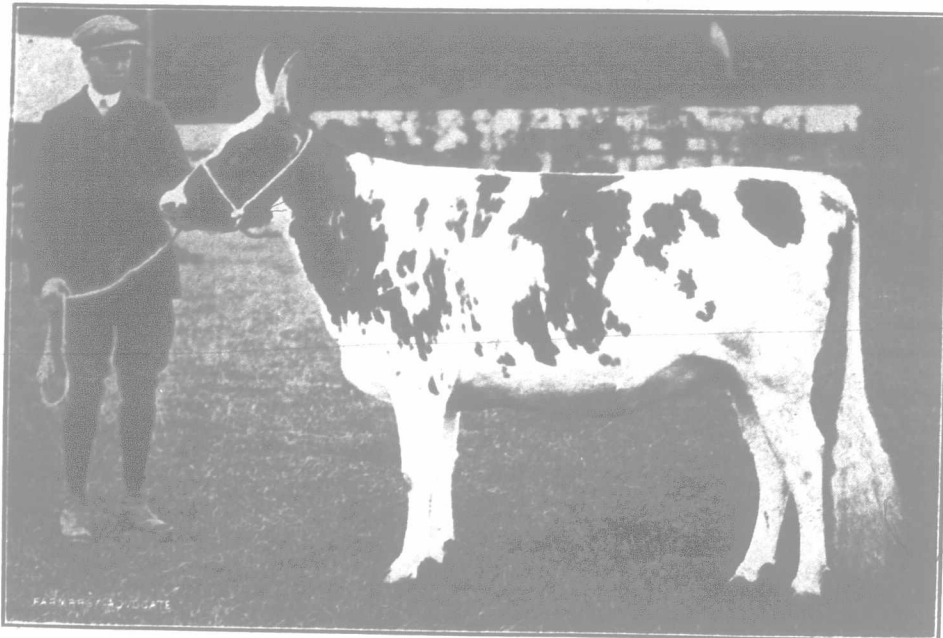
The popular bench of judges in the early years of Provincial fairs in Canada, which is yet the rule in many local and some more pretentious shows, was, and is, the committee of three, with full liberty for discussion, the majority ruling. I remember occasions on which, at Provincial exhibitions, as many as five or six constituted the awarding committee, the surplus being distinguished visitors thus honored. When we recall the wearisome waiting, in some cases, for the decision in these days of the committee of two, we can form some conception of the tired feeling and increased age of the animals and attendants while waiting for the verdict of the larger jury. No reflection upon the old-time judges is intended, for, as a rule, they were, as now, honest and well-meaning men; but in the case of Provincial exhibitions the judges were nominated by members of the Board of Agriculture, who were elected by county agricultural societies, and in some cases their qualifications for the work were apparently given less consideration than their influence in election times, an instance being recalled in which a sincere Scotchman from a back county, who was honored with appointment to judge a certain breed of sheep, with the characteristic caution of his countrymen, came early to the fair and inquired of the attendants the name of the breeds in their charge, until he came to the Southdowns, when he asked, "What breed div ye ca' they wee black-faced sheepies?" and then innocently revealed the fact of his appointment as one of the judges of that class of stock.

Along in the seventies, the popular bench of judges at some of the State fairs across the line was from three to five, to vote by ballot, without consultation or discussion, each member marking the entry number of his choice on a card, and handing it to the director or superintendent in charge, who announced the result and handed out the prize ribbons. The system appeared, on the surface to be eminently fair, but in practice proved even less satisfactory to exhibitors than the old plan of three or more judges with their tongues untied. The superintendents of classes at some of the big fairs in the States in those days were invested with remarkable authority, even to the choosing of the judges, who were often picked up on the fair-ground from such material as happened to be available. Showing sheep at St. Louis on one occasion, the writer was a competitor for the sweepstakes prize for the best flock of sheep, open to all breeds, and naturally believed he ought to win. The superintendent marshalled a committee of five picked-up judges who voted by ballot, but the result was evidently not satisfactory to the official, who pocketed the ballots, discharged two of the committee, and instructed the other three to vote again, while refusing to give any explanation to the exhibitors, who were, of course, at liberty to form their own opinion of the object of the shuffle.

So fair did the balloting system appear that on one occasion the directors of the Ontario Provincial exhibition were induced to give it a trial in the class for Shorthorn cattle, the writer being the returning officer; but, whether from this fact, or other causes, one trial was sufficient to prove that the secret ballot was no improvement upon the open vote, and it was not repeated.

In the early nineties there was quite a commotion in the States over the newly-discovered science of judging live stock by means of a scale of points and a score-card. Schools were established for the education of expert judges, and graduates advertised themselves as open to engagement by fair boards to demonstrate the unerring efficiency of judging by rule. A Montreal fair board having had its attention called to the new departure, decided to give it a trial. An expert from over the line was engaged to pass judgment in the cattle classes. He came in pompous style, loaded with blank cards, pencils and rubbers, figured diligently on each animal in large classes, using much time, and producing results that were astonishing in some cases to himself as well as to practical stockmen watching his work, who ridiculed his rulings, and in some cases protested; but, on reviewing his figures, the expert was sure the results must be right, however inconsistent they might appear to the naked eye. Sufficient to say the experiment was not repeated, and the system, so far as competitive exhibitions were concerned, was relegated to the limbo of discredited fads. The score-card doubtless has its place in the college classroom, and is helpful to inexperienced youths, but is out of place in the public show-ring.

Another whim later launched upon a credulous people in this country by inexperienced advocates was that of requiring judges to give reasons in public for their awards in certain live-stock classes. This, so far as known to the writer, is a purely Canadian conception, which has made but feeble growth, and gives promise of being short-



Morton Mains Memonas.

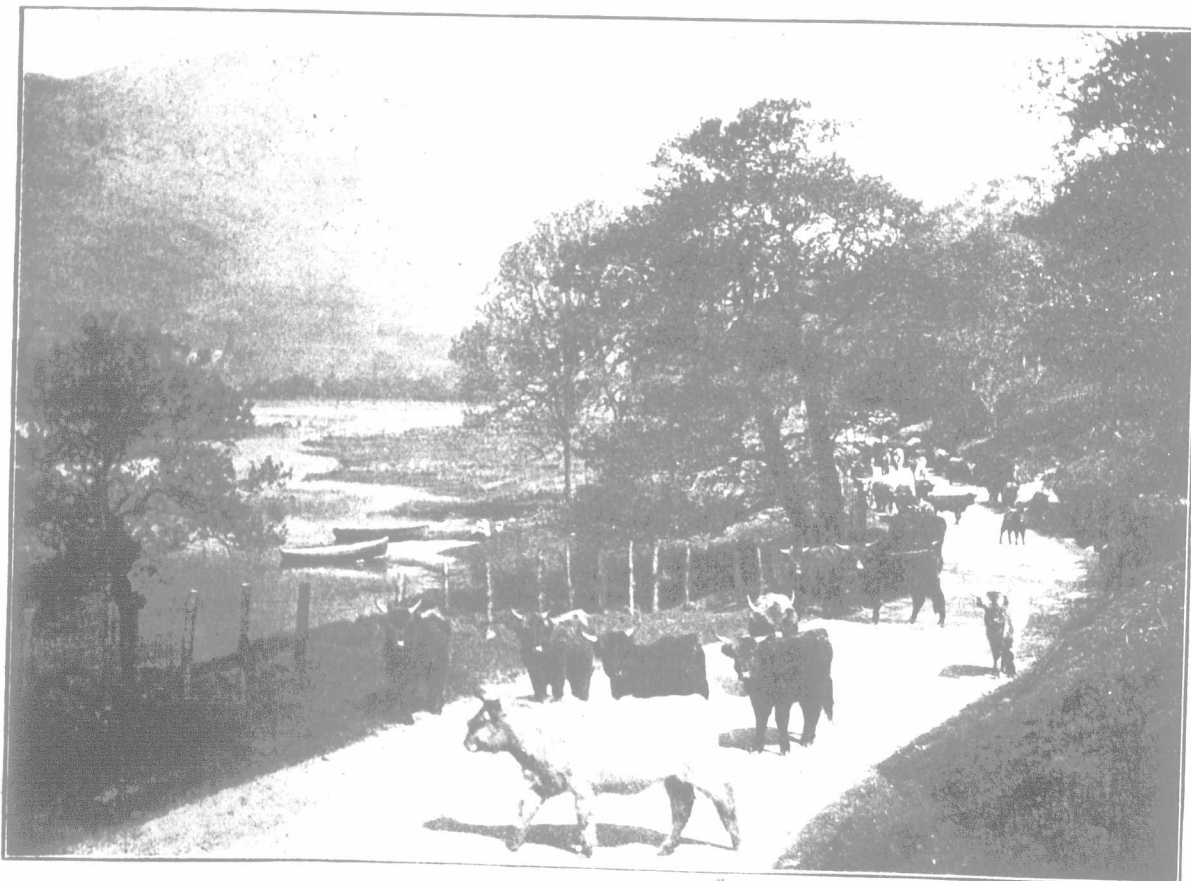
Two-year-old Ayrshire heifer, breed champion at the Highland Show, 1911.

barns, judging-rings or parades. No live-stock knowledge is of more value than that of horse husbandry, and no other feature of the exhibition will give the sight-seer more pleasure from which real profit may result than will the horse department.

LIVE STOCK.

Judges and Judging.

With charity toward all, and malice toward none, recognizing that "to err is human," I mentally review the long list of live-stock shows and judging in an observation of sixty consecutive years of fair-going. Lest, perchance, these notes may in some respects seem unduly critical, or reflect upon the integrity of some of those whose work has come under my ken, I gladly state that the instances in which there were apparent grounds



A Highland Drive