

For sow 6 months and under 1 year, Jos. Featherstone secured first on Daisy Midge, with Canada's Pride, and Canada's Pride Second (two daughters of Lady Duckering), owned by J. E. Brethour, for second and third, while the fourth was awarded to Featherstone's Dolly Midge. Two choice young sows of Jos. Featherstone won first and second under 6 months, with J. E. Brethour third and fourth.

Section boar and three sows over 1 year. The herd of J. E. Brethour was first, with Gladiator, Lady Duckering, Maid 6th, and Dominion Belle, while Jos. Featherstone came in for second, with Plymouth Prince, Jessica, Whiston Pride and Whiston Sally. Three sows over 1 year, bred by exhibitor, the herd of Mr. Featherstone, was the only one shown, owing to the first prize herd in the former class not having been bred by exhibitor.

The awards in the next section, boar and three sows under 1 year, decided the premium in the two following sections, viz., in the next class for boar and three sows under 1 year, bred by exhibitor, and four swine, get of the same boar, bred by exhibitor, and was given in the following order:—Joseph Featherstone, first and second; J. E. Brethour, third and fourth.

For the four pigs under 6 months, produce of the same sow, Mr. Featherstone brought out a choice young herd, the produce of Whiston Sally, winning first, with J. E. Brethour second upon a herd that appeared to be much younger than the first prize herd.

In the two sections, boar any age, and boar any age bred by exhibitor, Mr. Featherstone secured the first on Whiston Swell, a very neat young pig, under 6 months.

Dominion Belle, the property of J. E. Brethour, won the sweepstake as sow, any age, but in the class, sow any age, bred by exhibitor; the premium fell to Daisy Midge, bred by Jos. Featherstone, owing to Dominion Belle not having been bred by exhibitor.

#### The Manitoba Central Institute and Tariff Reform.

The executive of the Manitoba Central Farmers' Institute was unable to carry out the programme as mapped out by the Institute at its annual meeting, June 27th and 29th last, respecting the visit of the Finance Minister to the province. Acting upon the expressed wish of the Minister, the annual meeting appointed its officers and directors a deputation to wait upon the Minister at Brandon, and asked that the Minister meet the farmers of Minnedosa, Portage la Prairie, Winnipeg, Morris, Glenboro and Boissevain as well, one of the executive to attend all meetings. This information was duly forwarded to the Minister, and was apparently very satisfactory, the Minister promising to give the Secretary notice as soon as his route was made up. This was the last heard directly from him until the Secretary telegraphed the Minister in Winnipeg for an explanation, and only received a reply the day before his arrival in Brandon.

At 3 p. m., Saturday, 14th inst., Hon. Mr. Foster, Finance Minister, accompanied by Hon. H. R. Angers, Minister of Agriculture, met the farmers and others in the City Hall, Brandon. The Brandon farmers' committee and the Patrons of Industry presented their memorials, when Mr. James Elder, President of the Central Institute, was called and presented his case in the interests of the farming community as follows:—

He began by explaining the objects of the Institute. It was to elevate and improve the condition of the farmer: First, in leading him to adopt better systems, and second, to find out and endeavor to remove in a constitutional way any disabilities under which he labored.

Whilst the Institute was strictly non-partisan, it did not claim to be non-political, but claimed the right to oppose any political system which interfered with the farmers' prosperity, no matter by what party inaugurated or practised.

Regardless of political parties, the Institute is unanimously of opinion that the present protective tariff is unjust and oppressive, and we consider it our duty and our privilege as well to embrace the present opportunity to express our views to representatives of the Federal Government.

We are thus giving the present Government fair warning. If they heed the warning and remove these unjust burdens, the work of the Institute in this regard will be accomplished. But if they refuse to give us justice, then it will be our duty and our privilege as well to *untidly* look for men who will.

The farmers had no objection to pay their full share towards the necessary expenses of Government, but they did object to being discriminated against.

(This point he elucidated at Virden as follows: "So far as the tax upon food and clothing are concerned, farmers, tradesmen, merchants and professional men are treated alike. But in the implements and machinery necessary to the prosecution of their calling the existing tariff bears unjustly upon the farmer. When the farmer wants to plow, sow, mow, reap, thresh, store his grain, or draw it to market, he has to pay duty upon his plow, drill, mowing machine, binder, binder twine, threshing machine, lumber, wagon and sleigh. On the other side, take the merchant, he requires no implements in his business, except his scale and his yardstick; take the butcher, he requires only his

knife, cleaver and saw, and so on. You told us at Brandon that the manufacturer had to pay duty on his machinery, but that only makes the matter worse, because he raises the price of his product proportionately, and the farmer has to pay the increased price agreed upon by the manufacturers, because there is practically no competition in price, but simply in effecting sales.")

It is not fair that the farmer, whilst having to compete in the open markets of the world in selling his wheat, should be taxed heavily in order to furnish a protected market for those from whom he purchases.

What we want is a revenue tariff, and what we mean by that is, a tariff the only object of which is to raise the necessary money for the maintenance of an economical Government. A tariff which seeks to exclude foreign manufacturers diminishes rather than increases the revenue.

Mr. Foster—I suppose you want the whole thing?

Mr. E.—Yes. For fifteen years we have had no fair play. Now we want full measure.

Mr. E. then went on to point out the unjust discrimination in railroad rates, and mentioned as cases in point the facts that Vancouver shingles were carried past our doors, nearly 1,700 miles, and sold in Brucefield, Huron Co., Ont., for 13 cents per bunch, or 52 cents per square, less than in the town of Virden.

Coal also was carried past our doors to Winnipeg, a distance of 182 miles, and sold for \$1.50 a ton less than in Virden.

If the Ontario farmer wanted to send a dressed hog or a firkin of butter to the Pacific Coast, which is certainly our natural market, he could do so just as cheaply as the Manitoba farmer.

These were some of the reasons why the competition of the Manitoba farmer had become desperate.

R. E. A. Leach, Secretary of the Institute, followed, emphasizing what Mr. Elder had said and giving tables of figures to show the embarrassed position of farmers at the present time. He concluded by giving the Queen's Bench suits for the present year and comparing them with the last five years, likewise executions ordered and by whom, chattel mortgages and who held them, county court suits ditto, in all of which implement mear ranked high as on the aggressive, for which Mr. Leach attributed the high tariff as largely the cause. He claimed that high tariff, as well as fostering infant industries, fostered merciless combines, which, after selling goods at exorbitant figures, showed little quarter when the farmer, overtaken with reverses in the shape of bad crops and poor prices, was unable to meet his bills at maturity. The resolution of the Central Institute was read asking that the duty be reduced to a revenue basis. The farmers were willing to pay their share of the revenue necessary for the good government of the country, but not more.

Messrs. Postlethwaite and Yeomans spoke for the Patrons, and Reddick and Doran for the Brandon Committee, as well as a number of others of all shades of politics; all were agreed and in earnest in their efforts to secure a reduction of duty. The Ministers promised to consider all that was said, and give such relief as will contribute most to the general good.

A night meeting was held under the auspices of the Liberal-Conservative Club, at which both Ministers gave lengthy addresses and succeeded in spoiling much of the good effect produced in the afternoon.

#### LOCAL INSTITUTES.

The local institutes also addressed the Ministers at several points throughout the Province, notably at Melita, where Mr. Underhill made a powerful appeal for tariff reform, and at Portage la Prairie, where a lengthy memorial showing how the farmers of Manitoba were detrimentally affected by the present tariff, freight rates, combines, etc., which was jointly signed by Thos. Sissons, President of the Farmers' Institute, and W. C. Graham, General Secretary of the Patrons of Industry, was presented.

#### VIRDEN.

Virden was also favored with a short visit from the Ministers, and the local institute took the opportunity offered to lay before the honorable gentlemen a few simple facts bearing on the present condition of the farming community, and remedies best calculated to relieve them from the heavy and unjust burdens they are staggering under. The President, Mr. James Elder, was selected as spokesman, and his remarks were much in the same line as at the Brandon meeting, a synopsis of which is given above.

#### Manitoba Cheese at Chicago.

We have been able to obtain very little information re Manitoba's cheese and butter exhibit at the World's Fair; very little was sent, but in cheese at least the quality seems to have been equal to the best, and we confidently expect our butter to rank equally high. Cheese of 1893 make had to score 95 points or over to secure an award, and the Manitoba article "got there."

That from S. M. Barre's St. Anne factory scored 99 points, and from his St. Agatha factory, 90; David Shunk, St. Anne, got 97½ points; D. Pelletier, Lorette, got 91.

#### The Sheep and Swine Breeders Convene.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association will convene in the City Hall, Guelph, December 5th, at 10 a. m. The afternoon session will meet at 1 p. m., and the evening session at 7 p. m. same day. The Executive of the Association will meet at the Commercial Hotel, Guelph, at 1 p. m., the 5th inst.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association will be held in the same city and hall, and at the same hours, morning, afternoon and evening, December 6th. The officers of this Association will meet at 8 a. m., the 6th, at the Commercial Hotel, Guelph.

The programme for each Association, which will be issued in a few days, is better than that prepared for any previous meeting.

#### The Annual Report of the Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations.

There is seldom issued a pamphlet which gives so much useful information as the one that contains the combined reports of the Dominion Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations for 1892. The opinions advanced and thoughts expressed in the discussions are of the more value in that they contain the ideas of men of experience in their respective lines of breeding, while the very fact that the men who have written papers on the different subjects appertaining to the breeding and management of the flock and herd have attained the highest success in the show ring, as well as in the breeding circles, should give the work a value not easily estimated.

The Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association has been established for nearly five years, while that of the kindred association of the swine breeders of the Dominion has been in existence since September, 1889. That they have accomplished much is proved by the work they have already performed. The old adage, "United we stand, divided we fall," was never better exemplified than in the workings of these two societies, and it will only require a steady determination and unity of purpose on the part of the members to obtain any concessions they may require at the hands of railway officials, fair associations, or any department with which they may have to deal in the future. Past experience has proved how readily the views of the breeders have been met by the two Governments in granting their demands in regard to the World's Fair at Chicago, while the wonderful success the flocks of Ontario have achieved in competition with those of the United States must be ascribed to the skill of our breeders, together with the strong front presented through a thorough organization. Every breeder in Ontario has already realized what has been attained, and each year new accessions to the ranks of these two strong associations will wield a beneficial influence not easily conceived. That both these societies have entered a long lease of utility is assured, and a great share of the credit is due to the able secretary, Mr. F. W. Hodson, to whose exertions the founding of each may be ascribed, while their continued success is in a large measure attributable to his untiring zeal in directing their working. As each member of both societies will or has already received a report, they will come to future meetings better prepared for future action, which shows the vast advantage gained by having past deliberations recorded in the report. Among the discussions was that of deciding

#### THE NUMBER OF JUDGES

best qualified to fulfil this most important part of the work in connection with our show system. That there was a wide difference of opinion in regard to this point shows that all are not in accord as to which is the safest anchoring ground. Perhaps the strongest disputation was provoked when the advisability was suggested of making it peremptory on exhibitors to produce

#### CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION

on entering sheep for exhibition, or to judges while exercising their duties in the show ring. This question, it appears, never came to a vote, and although there was a strong opposition shown by some of our ablest breeders, still the majority evidently favored the adoption of this rule in future.

The questions mentioned will doubtless again be brought up for discussion at the coming annual meeting, and it is to be hoped that members will study what is to the best interests of breeders, and come to the meeting prepared to arrive at satisfactory conclusions in both these important cases.

The report, in the excellent papers read, furnishes a fund of information upon the different points of sheep husbandry that has never been surpassed, and if the breeders' associations had never attained anything else, the very compiling of this store of knowledge is of incalculable benefit. Among the good points that were brought out by those who had prepared papers, they very properly dwelt largely on the point of production for the export trade; and if these could be read by some of the farmers of Ontario, they should go a long way toward making sheep breeding from a commercial standpoint more popular with those who at present practise grain growing, and make stock breeding and feeding side issues.