

The Fat Stock Show at Guelph.

Much of the success that attended the late show must be credited to the efforts put forth by each of the four Associations that contributed to this meeting.

From a financial standpoint it will be a long time before a fat stock show can be successfully held. Therefore it is hopeless to look forward for an advance in prizes and better arranged classes, unless money from some other source than that which can be obtained through gate receipts is forthcoming, yet all are of the opinion that a fat stock show is quite as necessary a medium for instruction as those for breeding stock which are held at other seasons of the year. As soon as it was decided that the Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations would offer a sum of money at this show, a number of the members of each of these bodies deemed it imperative to assist the show by preparing animals expressly for it, and this fact, together with the handsome prizes offered by them, are the chief reasons for the wonderful display in these departments. Particularly was this the case among the sheep. The show has never yet been equalled on the continent, while the display of swine was also far beyond anything held in Ontario before, and quite nearly approached any show held in the pork-producing west. There is, however, room for much improvement. For instance, steers and heifers cannot be shown together with any degree of fairness, neither can ewes and wethers. Then we are strongly opposed to three breeds of sheep being brought into competition, as it is difficult for judges to do justice, and is apt to cause a jealousy that never occurs between exhibitors of one breed. Several mistakes crept into the rules and regulations which also prevented a large show, many breeders in the building remarking that they intended showing if Rule 4, which read, "Butcher's stock only will be eligible to compete for premiums, and animals that are to be used hereafter for breeding purposes will be excluded from competition." The publication of this Rule was an oversight; it did not apply in any particular to the sheep and swine department. But for its publication the display of animals would have been much better than it was.

Much praise should be accorded the members of the Guelph Fat Stock Club and the city of Guelph for the efforts they put forth in providing such a superior building, and the reception that was prepared for the event in all departments will go a long way toward making the show permanent at that city.

Mr. Herbert Wright, the well-known Oxford Down breeder, was superintendent, and a most faultless one he was. The arrangements were perfect, and the order all that could be desired.

The cattle department, over which the Agriculture and Arts Board presided, was characterized by an exhibit in which quality was well marked, but the absence of the overdone three-year-olds, that were so prominent at shows of former years, gave at first rather the impression that the entry was not a strong one, as regards a Christmas fat stock exhibit. But this idea was quickly dispelled as the different rings were called forth.

The Shorthorn entry and that of Shorthorn grades were uniformly good, with hardly an ordinary specimen, while the majority of the cattle of both these classes may be considered show yard animals in every sense of the term. Just two Shorthorn steers in the section two years and under came forward. In this case the decided difference in the types of the animals alone made it an open question where the first ribbon would be tied. Redmond, a roan, owned by Adam A. Armstrong, Fergus, was of low, blocky form, just that type that has gained popularity for the Aberdeenshire butcher beast; while a white steer, fed by Mr. W. B. Cockburn, Aberfoyle, was built on a larger scale, which at first impressed the crowd that in this instance the judge, Mr. J. Smith, Paris, had made a mistake, and for some time after the decision there was much difference of opinion regarding the comparative excellence of the two entries. The white steer had size in his favor, and had perfect top and bottom lines, while the grand, heavy coat of hair he carried apparently added to his scale. On the other hand the roan steer had not nearly so good an appearance while standing, his top line being apparently faulty. This idea, however, was entirely dispelled as he moved away; he then displayed his handsome form to advantage, while the wonderful wealth of natural flesh which covered every beef point was abundantly evidenced by a touch that is seldom approached.

Redmond is peculiarly in-bred, bred by W. Redmond, Millbrook; his sire and dam are both by Challenge, a son of J. & W. Watts' Bampton Hero, while the grand-dam is by Ontario Champion, which was a full brother of Bampton Hero.

On the other hand the white steer, which was bred by Arthur Johnson, Greenwood, is by his stock

bull, Indian Chief, the dam being a cow chiefly of Booth breeding.

The yearling section was a repetition of the last as regards the character and breeding of the two that won first and second place. The first prize here was carried by Vice Challenge, a roan steer, only five weeks younger than Redmond, and almost similarly bred; in this case both sire and dam were sired by Challenge, and both of Mr. Redmond's breeding. He was a capital meaty fellow, very handsome and straight in all his lines, but his top did not bear inspection as well as that of his near kinsman, displaying a few depressions, and had not the wonderful evenness of the two-year-old entry, yet he was fully as ripe and in firmness was, if anything, superior.

The second went to W. B. Cockburn's white yearling, also half brother to his last mentioned, and was also bred by Arthur Johnson. This was a particularly good steer, and of much the same pattern as the other Cockburn entry.

A good, useful red steer, owned by Thos. Waters, Rockwood, which was nicely finished, won third.

In calves, but one entry came forward. This was a very handsome white, shown by Adam Armstrong; he is not only remarkably good now, but gives abundance of promise for future honors, many onlookers contending that he was better than any of those already mentioned.

Shorthorn cows that had been breeders were a useful lot. In this ring the first went to John Kelly, Shakespeare, his cow being a red three-year-old that was exceedingly well brought out, and was remarkably smooth and straight, particularly fine in the bone, and carrying very little offal. She had plenty of flesh, was by no means overdone, and was a really good cow.

Thos. Russell, Exeter, won second place with a well-fed cow, thicker than the last named, but, having produced more calves, was not by any means as valuable from a beef point of view.

W. B. Elliott showed a much larger cow than either of the previous named, but she was not nearly as thick and had more offal.

HEREFORDS.

Only two aged cows, shown by F. W. Stone, Guelph, came forward to represent this beefing breed, and those were only in ordinary store condition.

POLLED-ANGUS

had but one specimen of this capital feeding sort, which was brought out by J. W. Burt, Coningsbury. This was a ten-year-old cow, of large frame and well fed, and, although rather patchy, would make a fairly good carcass of beef.

IN GALLOWAYS,

D. McCrae exhibited two cows just in breeding condition.

DEVONS.

In this breed W. J. Rudd, Eden Mills, brought out a neat pair of steers, which displayed smoothness in finish and good breeding character.

GRADES AND CROSSES.

The section for two years and under three was the largest ring yet forward, and as steers and maiden heifers were elected to show together in all classes, this was the first ring in which both came against each other. However, the heifers had the best of it, and were a most superior lot. The competitors for premiums were soon narrowed down to four, the first ribbon being sent to a highly-fed roan, owned by James Okes, Alvinston. This heifer was a wonderfully ripe, thick-fleshed beast, but was a bit plain behind and bare in her quarters, while the white heifer shown by the same exhibitor was a model from a breeder's standpoint, but she handles less firmly and was not so thick, but still we are of the opinion she would dress the best carcass of beef.

The third premium went to a heifer of neat proportions, but lacking in the ripeness of either of the before-mentioned.

YEARLING GRADES AND CROSSES

were a mixed lot, and the judge, Mr. Cranford, of Toronto, mixed the awards, the first being sent to a well-developed steer, owned by F. Murdock, Ponsby, but he had neither the finish nor ripeness of the two next placed. The Murdock entry was not as strong in the back and was bare on his top; while the second entry, brought out by James Oke, was a particularly ripe, thick heifer, carrying an unusual amount of flesh for her age. The third place was given to another steer, also shown by James Oke, and very similar, but to our minds much superior to the steer that won first.

GRADE CALVES

were exceedingly good, and should produce some winners for future shows.

SWEEPSTAKES.

A ring of ten steers, heifers and cows came into competition for this coveted prize, offered in the form of a handsome cup, given by the Guelph Fat

Stock Club. The three gentlemen who had acted previously in the classes were appointed to act together, so that they virtually had to endorse the judgment, as each had already awarded it, which ended in the roan steer Redmond winning the honor; one of the judges, however, holding stoutly for the roan two-year-old heifer from the Oke's contingent.

SHEEP.

The exhibition of sheep was the best ever held in Canada. Some of the oldest exhibitors, among whom was John Rutherford, so well-known as a continental exhibitor in this class, stated it was the best exhibit of the kind ever held in America. Upwards of one hundred and thirty sheep were in the pens, ninety of these were pure-breeds. As several classes were shown at the same time, we will be under the necessity of reviewing the different exhibitors' flocks, instead of the rings, as was done in the cattle department.

The veteran breeder of Southdowns, Mr. John Jackson, of Abingdon, Ont., showed ten grand Southdowns. The flock was composed of two two-shear ewes, two shearling ewes, and six ewe lambs. None of these were at all over fed; in fact, would have shown better had they been in higher condition. In quality they were all that could be desired; they won in their class first and second in yearling ewes, first and third on ewe lambs, and sweepstakes for best five sheep, the get of one ram.

John Kelly, Shakespeare, Ont., another of Canada's most noted sheep breeders, was out with a splendid flock of fifteen, composed of nine Leicesters and six Shropshires. In ages, the Leicesters were two aged ewes, one yearling ewe, three ewe lambs and three wether lambs. The Shropshires were all lambs—three ewes and three wethers. The following prizes were won by this flock:—Leicesters, third on aged ewes; first on yearling ewe; first on three ewe lambs; first on three wether lambs; sweepstakes for best flock of longwools, the get of one ram; sweepstakes for best pure-bred ewe, any breed. Shropshires—Third on three ewe lambs; first on three wether lambs.

W. H. Beattie, Wilton Grove, Ont., exhibited twelve Shropshires, each of which was either imported or bred by himself. They were a very nice lot and reflected great credit on their breeding, winning first and second for pens of ewe lambs, third for wether lambs, and first on pen of grade ewe lambs, third on aged ewe, third on shearling ewe, first for grade shearling ewe, and sweepstakes for best five sheep, the get of one ram.

W. E. Wright, Glanworth, exhibited four pure-bred Shropshires and one Shropshire grade. The aged ewe in this lot was a particularly even fleshed animal of extra quality, but under size. Two of the ewe lambs (the pen consisted of three) were the best of the breed of that age on the ground. They were of unusual merit, but not fat enough to win. The third ewe lamb was good, but not as large as the other two, nor was she of a good quality.

David H. Dale, Glendale, Ont., that retiring yet successful breeder and importer of Southdowns, sent a splendid selection, numbering seven; though not in show-yard trim, were a superb lot. They won second on three wether lambs, also second on three ewe lambs.

James Scott, Aberfoyle, exhibited two Southdown grade ewes, winning first and second honors with them.

Mr. Herbert Wright, Guelph, exhibited five Oxford wether lambs and one Cotswold yearling; the latter won second place.

Mr. Wm. Whitlaw, Guelph, Ont., was out with four very good Border Leicesters, winning second on three ewe lambs. Among his exhibit was an enormous aged ewe, certainly the fattest sheep in the pens. These were a typical lot of Border Leicesters.

A. Telfer & Sons, Paris, exhibited three strong, even Southdown ewe lambs, which took second place in their class.

Among the exhibitors of grades were G. & E. Thompson, Guelph, who showed twelve grade Leicester lambs, a draught from a flock of five hundred and fifty, which these gentlemen were feeding for the Christmas market. Those brought out were not specially fitted for the show, but merely selected from amongst the others. Their weights ranged from one hundred and sixty to one hundred and seventy pounds per lamb. They were a good lot, winning first and third on wethers and third on ewe lambs.

In the above class John Rutherford & Sons, Rose-dale, Ont., exhibited forty head of various ages and breeds. One pen, owned by these exhibitors, contained twelve wonderful wethers; among these was the best Oxford wether ever shown in Canada; he was two years old, and weighed two hundred and ninety-five pounds, and was as even and firmly fleshed as a