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The Ontario Provincial Winter Fair at Guelph

With Strong Exhibits and a Good Attendance the Third War Time Fair at Guelph was a Marked Success

THE third war-time fair was concluded at Guelph last week. In number of entries, in quality of exhibits and in attendance, the fair of 1917 must be recorded as one of the most successful in the history of the institution. War has but served to impress on people generally the importance of agriculture as the mainstay of the nation and it was fitting, therefore, that last week's fair should have been the success that it was. In spite of the shortage of labor and the high price of feed, conditions which are the by-products of war, the stock was brought out in splendid fit. A few well known faces were missing, but most of the old exhibitors were back in their places. And to replace the missing ones there were new men exhibiting in almost every class—some of the best proofs of the vitality of the live stock breeding industry.

As usual, the horses were the centre of attraction in the judging arena. The classes were no larger or better, as many as a score of big Clydes being out in a single class. Dairy cattle were a little behind in point of numbers and Sunbeam's record production this year was duplicated this year. Probably, however, the general average production was higher and in the type and conformation of the dairy cattle there was a decided improvement. The one exhibit was as large as the space would accommodate. Sheep were a record in number of entries and there were no "clean sweeps" for any exhibitor as has often been the case in certain sections of this department in the past. Beef cattle were short in numbers due to the elimination of grade breeding classes, but competition was keener because, and poultry was a record. Entries, one exhibitor declared, were equal in numbers to the Boston and New York shows combined. Altogether, 6,300 birds represented several scores of breeds, makes and varieties. And everywhere there was a crowd. The stalls and pens were crowded to make room for entries. The passage ways were blocked with people. The galleries around the arena could not hold the people who desired to see the judging. The general impression left with the thoughtful visitor to this year's fair was that the hand writing is already on the wall—Guelph must provide greater accommodation for both exhibits and spectators or eventually she will lose the fair.

The Horses.

Light horses were not up to the mark in point of numbers, but their popularity in the ring was at great a fever. In heavy horses, however, the classes were never so well filled, and probably this year's fair brought out more new exhibitors than any previous winter exhibition; a great proportion of the prize money was distributed widely among men with only a few entries. The Canadian bred classes were particularly good.

Clydesdales predominated and the contest for championship honors was a battle royal. Royal Favor, exhibited by Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont., was finally declared grand champion stallion, being first exhibited in a class of 20 mature stallions and not a weed in the bunch. The like of this line-up was never before seen in Canada. Colonel Dowers, exhibited by Thos. McMichael & Son, was the champion Canadian-bred stallion. In mares, Miss Hazel, owned by Boag & Son, was grand champion, and Ivory Margaret, owned by Smith & Richardson, was champion Canadian-bred mare. In the section for Clyde mares and two of her progeny W. W. Hogg, Thamesford, was first with Royalette and her offspring and in the same

section for Canadian bred, Robt. Tack & Sons, Eden Mills, won with Queen Maude. Awards for three got of sire went to Boag and McMichael, respectively.

There were no less than 16 entries in the class for mature Percheron stallions. The first in this class, and later grand champion, was Jassit, exhibited by Harold & Rats, Tavistock; 2nd, Isly, D. Elliott, Bolton, and third, Irado, also owned by Elliott. This latter horse has twice been grand champion at Guelph, but this year he could not do better than third. The grand champion Percheron mare was Leste, exhibited by Titus S. Shantz, Kitchener. Morden of Oakville, had the first three-year-old mare, N. Vermilyea & Sons, Belleville, secured the red on three get out of the offspring of Kilinis, and Morden won with mare and two of her progeny. On the whole the Percheron classes were much on a par with other years. In the grand champion classes were shown. There was no competition.

Beef Cattle.

"Aren't the cattle a little on the short side?" The query came from a Wellington County visitor, who has followed the fat stock show from the time it was held in the old skating rink at Guelph. They were. Perhaps the exceptional demand for beef cattle of the best breeding from across the line may account in part for the shortage. Perhaps scarcity of help had something to do with it. The greatest single factor, however, was the elimination from the prize lists of classes for grade heifers. The usual breeds were well represented by the usual exhibitors with a few new faces in the ring, and two, the Short-horn and Angus, divided grand championship honors. This was made possible by the awarding of separate championships, one for best beef heifer, any breed, and another for best beef steer. The champion heifer was Rose Hope, senior yearling, bred by W. A. Dryden and exhibited by J. J. Elliott, Guelph. This was Mr. Elliott's first year as an exhibitor. And Jas. Leask of Sengrove, again had the champion steer, adding another 'n' to the long list of similar ones that he has made at Guelph and Chicago. His winning entry this year was Black George, a grade Angus, and a good one "in kind."

The Shorthorn breeding classes were exceptionally full. A few of the principal exhibitors were Kyle Bros. Drumbo; Geo. Amos & Sons, Moffat; J. J. Elliott; Jno. Guanoone Sons, Weston; Geo. W. Brown, Eldon; Morden & Son, Oakville; Geo. B. Armstrong, Tecumseh, and W. R. Elliott & Sons, Guelph.

In Hereford, the championship went to the sterling heifer, Donald's Dolly, exhibited by O'Neil Bros., Denfield. These breeders, comparatively new men in the field, almost won first on get of sire and junior heifer class. Fags, Waltham, won first on breeder's herd and W. Roadhead, Milton, was first with heifer, 2 years old, and senior bull calf. Other exhibitors were W. H. E. & J. B. Hunter, Orangeville, and C. E. Reynolds, Eldon. The Angus heifer, Elm Park Keppaske, owned by Jas. Bowman, was champion of her breed and reserve champion in beef heifers. Competition was keen and good, and that of John Lowe of Eldon, and all firsts were divided between the two. Other exhibitors were J. W. Burt & Son, Hillsburg; J. D. Musland, Eldon, and Robt. McEwen, Guelph.

Grades and crosses were numerous and well divided among the different breeds.

(Continued on page 20.)