

CATTLE.

Northern Alberta is fast becoming noted for its herds of pure-bred cattle, and this year the exhibit of bovine excellence can truly be said to be one of the chief features of the exhibition. Duncan Anderson, Rugby, Ont., was present to grant the awards, and the exhibitors were invariably satisfied with his decisions. The Shorthorns, as would be expected, were the most numerous, and in many sections the quality was of a high order. In aged bulls, P. Talbot, Lacombe, had an easy first in Royal Macgregor, bred by H. Cargill & Son, of Cargill, Ont. This bull is full of Shorthorn character, and would stand a lot of beating in any ring. He was later given the sweepstakes. Bulls two years old and under three brought out four very nice specimens of the breed. S. K. English got first on a nice roan, possessed of remarkable smoothness as well as breed type. He has also proven himself a stock-getter of no mean order. Dr. B. Wilson, Nampa, had the second-prize animal, and Thos. Daly, Clover Bar, third. In yearling bulls, English got first, and Uren & Ottowell, Clover Bar, second. For bull calves, English was also to the front, winning first and second.

In aged cows there were five entries, making a ring of considerable merit. For first place there was a close call between Talbot and English, both having remarkably good cows. The former, however, was placed first, and Uren & Ottowell third. The three-year-olds were also a good lot, but one of the best had to go unplaced because she showed no evidence of being in calf. S. K. English secured first on a nice, smooth heifer.

For heifers two years old, Talbot was first and Uren & Ottowell second. The best ring of the Shorthorn show was the one for heifers one year old and under two. Altogether there were six to come forward, and for the first three places there were specimens any one of which would do credit to the largest exhibitions in America. The order of placing was Beresford, Talbot and English, and it is seldom that any judge has a better opportunity of illustrating what is meant by uniformity of type than was afforded and taken advantage of by Mr. Anderson on this occasion. For best herd, including bull and three females, the honors went to P. Talbot & Son, Lacombe. Through an oversight the latter herd was not entered for the prize given for the best herd of any breed, which they surely would have won. For bull and two of his get, S. K. English was the winner.

A few Galloways were on exhibition, but they were not in show condition, and, consequently, brought forth no favorable comment from the judge. The only Herefords on exhibition were shown by Jos. Tough, Edmonton, but they showed breed character and were brought out in such good condition as to be a credit to any exhibitor and a worthy feature of any pure-bred cattle show in this country. Had there been opposition they would have stood a lot of beating. The same exhibitor expected to have had two more females in time for the show, they having been shipped from Compton, Que., twelve days previously.

Polled-Angus cattle were not out in sufficient numbers to make a good show, and the same could be said of the Jerseys and Guernseys. In Holsteins, A. B. Potter, Whitewood, Assa., had seven head on exhibition, and secured all the prizes for which he had entered. His stock were in good show condition, and would have stood a hard encounter had opposition been on hand. There was a fairly good exhibit of fat cattle, and a number of grades showing good breed type.

SHEEP.

In long-wooled sheep, J. K. Thompson, Calgary, had a large pen of choice Leicesters and secured all the prizes. The short-wooled breeds were not present in any number. A nice pen of Angora goats were on the grounds and attracted considerable attention.

SWINE.

The exhibit of swine was the best that has ever been seen at Edmonton. In Berkshires, Swift Bros., Clover Bar, had a fine herd, notwithstanding that some months ago many show animals had been disposed of. Their stock was brought out in good condition, and showed breed type such as no judge could pass over. They secured first place in all sections in which they had entries, and in one or two cases second place also. Jos. Tough was the only exhibitor of Poland-Chinas, but he had some choice ones. In Yorkshires, A. B. Potten had a herd showing the bacon type to perfection, and with these he secured all the prizes.

An imposing feature of the live-stock exhibit was the parade of the prizewinners on the evening of the second day. As they approached the grand stand a beautiful sight was presented, and when Farmer Daly, who led the way, raised his straw hat the crowd cheered vociferously. The animals marched with stately tread, and even three fat steers which were chained together and without a guide seemed to realize the importance of the occasion.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

So early in the year as July 1st a show of agricultural products representative of a district cannot be expected, consequently the agricultural hall on Edmonton's beautiful show grounds was not very well filled. There was, however, a choice lot of grains that had been carried over from last year, sufficient to show what may be grown in the surrounding country. A feature of this department was the competition for a silver medal and twenty-five dollars given for the best seed oats grown in Alberta. Out of eight exhibits, Thos. Daly, Clover Bar, was the happy winner. The exhibitor secured first out of nine competitors for the best milling oats. There were seven lots of spring wheat to choose from, W. D. Carscadden got first and Hugh McKay second. In fall wheat a few samples of very high-grade were to be seen, showing conclusively what may be accomplished with this grain in Alberta. J. W. Suddaby was first with a white wheat, and John A. McPherson second with a red variety.

The exhibit of barley was the most remarkable of the grains. Nowhere in Canada or the United States has the writer seen such splendid samples of this grain, some of which would weigh not less than 55 pounds to the bushel. For six-rowed the prizes went to Clover Bar, Wm. Wakefield and Wm. Carscadden being the winners. In the two-rowed variety, John M. Brown, Agricola, and H. H. Crawford, Strathcona, won in the order named. For collection of grains, Crawford won first and Tough second.

The exhibit of grains, clovers and grasses in the sheaf grown this year was full of education for the visitor. Fall wheat was to be seen cut on June 29th, heading out; brome grass and timothy of remarkable growth; and alfalfa, alsike and red clover grown in the district, that was truly surprising.

STOCK-JUDGING DEMONSTRATION.

On the morning of the second day Mr. Duncan Anderson, who was judging the cattle, gave a practical talk upon the requirements of a beef animal, using Messrs. Talbot and English's bulls as object lessons. Three points, he said, must be looked for—constitution, feeding quality, and the right shape. As in buying land, it was necessary to see that the title deeds were right, so in buying a pure-bred animal it was necessary to see that the right foundation be secured upon which to build. He believed in pedigree, but would never buy a bull that had not the right individuality, that should be placed first. In general conformation the beef animal should be low-set, thick in the body, with strong top line, and well let down in the flank. Where breeds were crossed it was best to get rid of the crosses and not breed to them, as the next generation would have no breeding. The best results were obtained by men who chose the breed that suited them best, and then stuck right to it. He reminded the audience that in good times there was a tendency for the farmer to give up the dairy cow, but when money was not so easily made he generally went back to his old friend. He strongly advised those who contemplated going into beef-raising to secure the low-set sire, broad in the forehead and full in the eye. This address was greatly appreciated, and from the large crowd that gathered round, it is evident that the farmers of Edmonton district are open to receive all the practical instruction on live-stock that is obtainable.

By the Way.

LIVE-STOCK INDUSTRY.

Speaking of the live-stock industry, Mr. Johns, of Kaleids, says: "The raising of live stock will eventually take the place of wheat-raising in this Province. Mr. Johns has himself laid the foundation for a pure-bred herd of Shorthorns in his Pink II, and Pretty II, both of which were bred by Mr. Elworthy, of Exeter, Ont., and trace back to Hubback, of Colling Bros. fame. Pink II, is a particularly fine animal, having a beautiful head, fine neck, a very deep chest, and a straight, broad back. Such animals will do much to improve the live-stock of our Province."

SHEEP VS. WHEAT.

Mr. Howatt, of Kaleids, says: "Sheep-raising is a better paying industry than is wheat-raising. The expense of fencing for them is considerable, but after that the amount of work and expense is small. Rape and oats sowed together makes an excellent pasture for them. Provision should be made that the sheep can be admitted to only small portions of this crop at a time."

We Wonder Why.

It often gives a man considerable concern! if his wife complains of feeling tired after having made the fire, creamed the milk, fed the chickens and calves, milked the cows and prepared breakfast all before seven o'clock in the morning.

Stacking Hay.

Up till quite recently the making and stacking of hay was a branch of farm work which received little study in the Northwest. No method was followed. The several processes were gone through, and the hay stacked up anyhow, there being such a superabundance of it available that if a part got spoiled through lack of care there was always enough good hay left to meet the needs of the farm. Where part of a stack gets spoiled, however, it is safe to surmise that the other part is not of the first quality, and the extra work caused by the necessity of separating the good from the bad is enough inconvenience to make any sane farmer pay attention to stacking in the best possible way to protect the hay from the consequences of wet weather.

In our issue of June 20th we gave some hints on the important process of curing hay, and it is now our purpose to follow that up with a few remarks on the equally-important subject of stacking. Owing to the amount of hay used, and the rush and hurry prevailing in the haying season, it would be out of place to talk of stacking as practiced where land is costly and labor comparatively cheap, yet as a good rain-proof stack can be built quickly, with little more labor than a bad one, there is no reason why all haystacks should not be made in the best manner possible to secure the hay against rain. Stacks are often made in sections of about the length of the wagon load, and it is a very good plan to do so, as each section can be heaped up to "throw" a shower before commencing the next one. The one point requiring attention from the base to the peak is that the center be kept higher and harder packed than the outsides. If the center be not harder than the outsides; or, in other words, if the heart does not contain more hay to the cubic yard than the outsides in the body of the stack, the layers will settle with a downward slope from the outsides to the center. The reason for this is obvious, as the weight of the head or top of the stack is heaviest in the center and lightest on the outsides. The width of the foundation should be in proportion to the height. If the hay has to be pitched from the wagons, from twelve to fourteen feet will be found wide enough to finish with a slope steep enough to cast rain. When a mechanical fork is used, which is rigged to carry the hay to a considerable height, an extra proportionate breadth will be required to guard against wind storms. If these matters be attended to a pretty solid body of hay, almost proof against rain, will be the result. Care should be taken to have a uniform breadth, and also to pack well the joints of the sections, and a final topping, where stacks are built in sections, will ensure a lapping of the joints, which is often a weak point in stacks so built. The hay should be used first from the end which was built last.

Crystal City Fair.

The 24th annual exhibition of the Mountain Agricultural Society No. 1 was held under the auspices of the society on the 10th of July. There was a gratifying number of entries, and all came forward on the show day. There was a good class of cattle, and the show of horses was excellent in every respect, making a keen and close competition in almost every section. The judges in the horse classes were Messrs. W. Gennill, Pilot Mound, and R. D. Searfield, Crystal City. Mr. P. B. McLaren acted as director in attendance. The show was strong both in quality and numbers in the general-purpose class; the animals competing in the heavy draft class were of a high standard; and the carriage and roadster classes were composed of fine animals all through. In Shorthorns there were very good animals, though they ought to have been more numerous to fairly represent what is being done in the breeding of Shorthorns in the district. Herefords were a good show, and in numbers were a fair representation of the breed. Grades were a good class, but the number forward was anything but gratifying. There were three classes of sheep without any individual competition, as only one breeder represented each class. The animals forward, however, were of a good type, and all in good condition.

Pigs were next to being unrepresented. The judges awards seemed to be popular in every section, and they each and all did their work in a thorough and impartial manner. The one disappointing feature of the fair was the poor turnout of spectators, and several of the directors in commenting on the circumstance expressed the opinion that small local shows have survived their usefulness, and that the amalgamation of two or three district societies to hold a show in each district in rotation, is the only way to infuse energy and interest into the shows of the future. (See prize-list in Gossip column.)