

aged rams, Mr. Waters coming in third in the aged rams; but in the class for shearing ewes of 5 each the Duke of Richmond stood first, Lord Walsingham second, and the Earl of Radnor third. The Shropshire Downs mustered strong—13 shearing rams, 19 aged rams, and 10 pens of 5 each of shearing ewes. As a class they were beautiful and highly bred, but there was too much sculpture amongst them. Over hollow places the wool was more than two inches long, while on the more salient points it was scarcely half an inch, so that more is due to the artistic clipping than to the breeding. The Hampshire Downs were well represented in quality, though short in numbers, and the Somerset and Dorset horned were better, more compact, and symmetrical than we have ever seen them. The South Hams sheep were very few, and the wool of a coarse description. The Dartmoor and Exmoor sheep were shown in their wool, which was long and serviceable, and there were two Merinos; though 17 months old, they were small, but miserable things as compared with those shown at Battersea. Pigs, as a class, were shown in pretty fair numbers; they were divided into four classes, viz., large white breed, small white breed, small black breed, Berkshires, and a fifth or miscellaneous class, to take in those not qualified to compete in the others. The several specimens shown were of first-rate quality, and scarcely leaves us anything to wish but a hope that they may be severally kept up to the degree of perfection they have arrived at; they numbered in the aggregate 121 lots.

HORSES.—THOROUGHBRED.

For the Society's two prizes of £100 and £25, only one horse competed—the handsome but somewhat small horse, "Motley," exhibited by Mr. Carson, of Middleton Lodge, Linlithgowshire. If the society is to continue the offering of prizes for thorough breeds "calculated to improve and perpetuate the breed of sound and stout horses for general stud purposes," some other measures require to be adopted to ensure a better description than has appeared for the last three years. Perhaps the members of the Jockey Club might assist the society in offering a cup or prizes of triple the amount of those hitherto held out for thorough-breeds. Such an arrangement would doubtless bring forward better horses than shown of late years. No sum that the Society can offer will bring forward such horses as Newminster, Blair, Athole, or Stockwell. There was nothing very remarkable in the class for hunters and hackneys, although several well-bred stud horses competed. There was a very limited show of hackneys and ponies; indeed the horse department was the least successful section of the Exhibition.

The visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to the exhibition, and the presence of the iron clad navy of England and of France in friendly juxtaposition in Plymouth Sound, tended to draw a large number of spectators. The former event cannot be otherwise regarded than auspicious in the history of the Royal Agricultural Society;—the Prince thus affording another proof of his disposition to tread in the footsteps of his illustrious and lamented father; while the latter is pregnant with hope for the continuance of peace and good will between two of the greatest and most advancing nations of the world. The elaborate trials of machines and implements that preceded the show, we must defer noticing, till a report of the judges reaches us.

The Agricultural Society of South Wellington and the Board of Agriculture.

We publish elsewhere a letter from Mr. George Murton, Secretary of the above-named Society, in which some information is given which will interest and perhaps surprise our readers. Its chief item is a statement to the effect that the votes of fourteen Societies were, for some reason or other, taken no account of in the last election of members to the Board of Agriculture. No conjecture is ventured as to how this happened, and we have none to offer. The Bureau of Agriculture will no doubt be able to furnish an explanation of the matter, and perhaps it would have been well had Mr. Murton sought information from that quarter, and embodied it in his narration of circumstances. It would appear that had all the votes taken effect, Mr. Stone would have been elected in place of Mr. Burnham. In consequence, however, of the vacancy created by the lamented death of Col. Thomson, Mr. Stone has become a member of the Board, an appointment universally felt to be well deserved by that gentleman. The movement made by the Society of South Wellington had nothing

in it designed or calculated to give offence in any quarter. Its objects were to promote a more free and full expression from the Societies throughout the Province,—to secure a better mode of electing members of the Board, and to infuse some new blood into that body. As we observed at the time, not enough publicity was given to the Convention which was called, and as our report of the whole affair showed, remarks were made by individual members of the Convention which the Board of Agriculture considered unjust to it, and which it adopted means to rebut. While doing so, however, the Board took occasion to express its concurrence in the main in the wishes of the South Wellington Society, and we have no doubt that the individual members and the Board as a whole, will do their utmost to have the voice of all the Societies fairly heard, and to have every part of the country as efficiently represented as possible.

The Fergus Cup.

Owing to an oversight, the Prize List for the Provincial Exhibition this year does not contain the offer of the Fergus Cup, first presented by the late Hon. Adam Fergusson, some years back, and continued by his son the Hon. A. J. Fergusson Blair.

We have the pleasure of stating, however, that since the list was printed, the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture has been informed by the Hon. Mr. Blair, of his intention to continue the prize. The terms of the competition will be slightly altered; the prize will be for the best 2 year old Durham grade heifer.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Meeting of the Board of Agriculture.

A MEETING of the Board of Agriculture took place on the 1st inst. at the Tecumseh House, London, the object being to ascertain the state of preparations in regard to the Provincial Exhibition and attend to other business which might come up.

The following members were present, viz: Hon. D. Christie, President, Wm. Ferguson, M.P.P., Vice-President, Hon. G. Alexander, Hon. Asa A. Burnham, R. L. Denison, Dr. Richmond, F. W. Stone, J. C. Rykert, Esq., President of the Association, Dr. Beatty, President of the Board of Arts.

A number of communications were submitted and read, amongst which were a letter from the Bureau of Agriculture, stating that F. W. Stone, Esq., of Guelph, had been appointed by the Government a member of the Board in the place of the late President deceased. From the Managers of the Grand Trunk and the Great Western Railways respectively, stating that the same reduction would be made in the railway fares to and from the exhibition as last year. From Mr. Ferguson, of Kingston, accompanying the copies of Mr. Dickson's work on Flax, ordered some time ago by the board, and which had now come to hand from London. From the East Middlesex Agricultural Society, appropriating its funds in aid of the Association. From J. C. Tache, Esq., Bureau of Agriculture, stating that the warrants for the public grants for the Societies, which had not yet been received by the Board, had been duly applied for by him. From John A. Donaldson, Esq., report of progress in regard to flax cultivation. From the Committee on the Ploughing Match, draft of rules and regulations for governing the match.

The following resolution was then adopted.

Moved by Hon. Mr. Alexander, seconded by J. C. Rykert, and

Resolved,—That this Board have upon a previous occasion been required to express the great inconvenience experienced by the officers of the Local Societies from the delay in awarding to them annually their share of the Public Grant, and would now beg

respectfully to impress upon the Minister of Agriculture the importance of transmitting the amounts due to the Board of Agriculture at a period not later than the 1st of August of each year, so that the annual appropriations to the Local Societies may be transmitted to them in due time."

The Board adjourned at 5 p.m. to the City Hall to confer with the Local Committee. On arriving at the Committee Room, full explanations were given by the Chairman, Mr. Jas. Johnson, the Mayor of the city, Mr. Glass, the Hon. John Carling, and others, as to the funds at the disposal of the Committee, and the progress which had been already made, when it appeared that there would be considerable difficulty and uncertainty in the Committee being able to carry out the guarantee of the city given at Hamilton last year, to provide all the necessary preparations for the Exhibition, unless the Board rendered some assistance. The Board then retired from the Council Chamber.

The Board resumed at the Tecumseh House at 7 p.m.

The Rules for the Ploughing Match were then considered. They are as follows:—

1. Each ploughman competing must be a member of the Association, and will not be required to pay any additional fee.
2. The match will take place on Tuesday, the 19th September, commencing at 11 a.m.
3. The fields selected for the match are on the farms of Richard Thomas, B. Birch, and, if required, on the farm of David Patrick, at the junction of the road to Delaware.
4. The quantity of ground to be ploughed by each man will be about one-third of an acre, and will consist of two crown ridges and two open furrows equal in all to two lands 7 yards each in width.
5. Each ploughman will be required to drive his horses.
6. No person will be allowed to assist the ploughman except in setting his poles. Ploughmen will not be allowed to touch the furrows with their hands.
7. The ploughing shall not be less than 6 inches deep, no false cutting will be allowed. Each ploughman may, subject to the above restriction, choose the dimensions of his own furrow slice, but must cut to an angle of not more than 30 degrees, and set to an angle of 45 degrees. Any ploughman cutting to a less angle must set to half the angle he cuts.
8. Each ploughman shall draw his number, and the lot having a corresponding number shall be the one which he shall plough.
9. After drawing his number the ploughman shall stake off his lands, and shall be allowed an assistant to set and remove his stakes. Any ploughman receiving further assistance shall forfeit all claim to a prize.
10. On proceeding to open his land, each ploughman shall commence at the stake corresponding to his number, and shall back his own furrow; he shall then open the centre and finish the white land on the right side before commencing on the left.
11. Ploughing shall be commenced after the timekeeper shall have given the signal. The time allowed for the performance of the work shall be at the rate of an acre in twelve hours.
12. Each competitor on completing his work, shall place his stake with his number on it, on the centre of his land, he shall then at once remove his team and plough from the ground and report to the timekeeper.
13. Should two or more competitors be considered equal in merit, the preference shall be given to the person finishing in the shortest time; and in order to aid the Judges in the performance of their duty, the timekeeper shall furnish to them a list of the numbers of the various lots, with a statement of the time occupied in ploughing each lot.
14. All the land ploughed shall be judged.
15. No person will be allowed to interfere with the ploughmen while at work.
16. The decision of the judges shall in all cases be final, if in accordance with the rules. The Board of Agriculture will only interfere in cases where appeals set forth that the Judges have not given their decisions in accordance with the rules.
17. Boys under 18 years shall only be admitted to compete in the Boys' Class.
18. Persons intending to compete at the ploughing match shall make their entries on or before the 9th day of September.

The Judges are requested to attend promptly at the Secretary's office on the Exhibition Grounds, at 9 a.m. on Tuesday the 19th September.