

owner, who finds in the spring that instead of an average of one and half to the ewe, the flock average for lambs is half that quantity or even less. Ewes conceive more readily if flushed out by giving a little extra feed at mating time, for such purposes some whole oats and if possible rape and corn fodder will be found useful. It goes without saying that all breeding ewes should be short tailed, such should have been docked as lambs.

Why Not a Few Sheep?

The increasing number and quantity of weeds on Western farms together with the upward trend of wool and mutton prices point to the

sheep as a good investment for the quarter and half section man. Twenty-five to one hundred ewes and a couple of vigorous rams of the right type could be accommodated on almost any wheat farm in the West. A good yard fenced with one of the woven fences would be ample for winter time, while in the fall they can roam the stubbles until the snow is here. For housing a shed facing south and a few grain and hay racks is all that is necessary. Rack space should be about eighteen inches to a sheep, unless in very rough weather the sheep are better out, exercise during the winter for the breeding ewes along with ample feed means strong healthy lambs. A word of advice right here, the writer's experience is that on no account should a ewe or ram be used

for breeding purposes if affected with goitre, a swelling of the glands of the throat, the progeny of goitred sheep come dead or die soon after birth, it is undoubtedly hereditary in its tendency. B. C. imports fifty thousand sheep annually from the U. S., a good leg of mutton costs retail in Winnipeg seventeen to twenty cents a pound and is not easy to get. One also hears of some men stocking up with range lambs and shearing wethers for feeding on screenings. A start can be made with the ordinary range-bred ewe, containing as she does some Merino blood, and by the use of rams of the mutton breeds, improvement will soon be noted, in fact the third cross will be almost indistinguishable judged by appearance from the purebred.

The R. A. and I. Society's Big Show on the Fraser.

All live stock and fruit men are on the qui vive from that date in the year when the generous prize list of the R. A. and I. Society is first issued and the enthusiasm is not allowed to flag until the gates are closed and the fair is over.

Weather has so much to do with the success of a fair such as this that the barometer is pretty well stared out of countenance before show week is over; one also learns the elementary principles of 'why it rains' because all the residents have mastered this interesting puzzle and will glibly tell you how it is you are becoming moist, a fact which you never doubted.

His Excellency the Governor General and the Countess Grey made the occasion their official visit and charmed every one; the close attention and interest in agriculture shown by Earl Grey being remarked by all. The Lieut-Governor, Hon. Jas. Dunsmuir and Mrs. Dunsmuir also graced the show on the two opening days and expressed appreciation of the exhibits. Each year of late H. M. S. Shearwater, the gunboat that polices the North Pacific, has anchored off the town and gives people a chance to see one unit of the greatest navy in the world, and specimens of typical British jackies renowned in verse and seafight.

This year's fair was remarkable as showing little if any falling off from the Dominion fair of last year, in fact some sections of the exhibits were superior in numbers and quality, notably fruit and horses, especially the Clydesdales. The New Westminster fair has reached a stage where it may be considered as of the first rank, vieing with the Winnipeg Industrial for the premier position. Undoubtedly this proud position has been attained by the good management and hard work of Manager Keary and his board of control headed by President T. J. Trapp. The financial handling of the Dominion show by this society in 1905 was an object lesson to others cities who have had Dominion aid or hope to have, and one worthy of emulation, for not only did the society come out all right financially, but also have two good assets in the Manufactures and Women's, and the Industrial and Arts' buildings, both handsome in design and ample in proportion, with lavatory accommodation of the best. All this could not have been accomplished without a lot of hard work and backing by the city of New Westminster.

This fair has rounded the corner successfully for with a cash surplus in 1905 of over six thousand dollars and good attendance in 1906, the financial statement for this year should also be good. The agricultural districts of the Lower Mainland are rapidly filling up and the patronage of the exhibition is bound to increase annually, not only so but beautiful Queen's Park, on which the society holds its fair, is well worthy of a visit during fair time by the wanderer or tourist, as there he or she may get a better idea than elsewhere, in a short time, of the agricultural and horticultural possibilities of British Columbia.

A favorable financial statement and the attitude of the manager have won a noble encouragement to exhibitors and next year the prize list will be increased accordingly, and it is confidently hoped that the show will be held in the same place where it has been held in the past, as it is a well known fact that the fair is a success in the eyes of the public and the management.

isfactory than now to those who go to the trouble and expense of getting, good stuff ready.

This brings up the matter of the revision of the prize list, which is needed to make it more modern and ensure competition with the minimum of friction. Competitions can be arranged which have no educational value and are only provocative of hard feelings, such, for example, as inter-breed competitions. In the female section for Clydesdales, there should be a class for yeld (dry) mares, three years and under seven years, as well as for brood mares. In the section for championships such should be for females, and not as now stated for cow or mare; as questions have originated as to when a heifer becomes a cow, or a filly a mare, in either case it is correct to assume that the heifer or filly is the virgin female, and that the taking on of the maternal function at three years or over at once promotes the respective animals into the cow or brood mare class. In the cattle sections the same animals should not be permitted to compete more than once for herd prizes, no good purpose is achieved, in fact, the prizes for herds should not be added to, but kept at the minimum as already suggested when referring to this matter with respect to Winnipeg and other live stock shows. In the Shorthorn, Holstein, Ayrshire and Jersey sections a fourth prize might well be offered, and the herds should consist of the open herd, consisting of bull, three years and over, cow three years and up, two-year-old and yearling heifer and calf; the young herd to be a breeders herd (all bred by one man, which might limit it to B.C. herds,) and consist of bull two years or under, two-year-old and yearling heifers and a heifer calf. In the sheep sections where competition is keen, as in Oxfords and others, a fourth prize might with profit be offered, and where only one competitor comes forward in other breeds lop off the third prize money, such a rule might be made more or less elastic, so that it might be to the breeders' interest to work to increase the competition. In sheep there could with profit be added sections for grades as at Winnipeg this year; B. C. can do considerable in mutton raising, to meet the demand that necessitates the importation of fifty thousand sheep annually.

In the matter of judges New Westminster is up-to-date inasmuch as the single judge system, is adhered to, the final choice being made by the board of control, not by interested parties who may be exhibitors, and the judges are recompensed. In spite of the work of agricultural colleges and other sources, the output of competent, honest, unafraid judges is far from meeting the demand and when such are found can not be expected to work hard for little or nothing; the position while important is a thankless one owing to the occasional appearance of exhibitors who may be dubbed 'bad losers'. A judge's work is far reaching, his placings indicate (or should) two things, the relative values of the animals in competition before him, and the type nowadays demanded by the markets of the world; such rulings are also far reaching in another sense comparatively unimportant because only temporary, by either helping or hindering sales, albeit some indication to the uninitiated about to invest or to the man wishing to purchase without previous inspection of the animals. Hence it is readily seen that the position of a judge is very important and the selection of such no small undertaking. Even with the best of judges some exhibitors

show pique, which on reflection they are sorry for, it may be stated generally that judges do what they consider right irrespective of the exhibitor. On the prairie, judges are better treated at the smaller fairs than at the larger ones, such as at Winnipeg, where the honor is expected to be ample recompense for the work, rather an out-of-date idea. The judges at the New Westminster show were R. Ness, Howick, Que., heavy horses, Dr. S. F. Tolmie, Victoria, light horses; Jas. Bray, Portage la Prairie, Man., beef breeds of cattle, and swine; Dr. A. G. Hopkins, Winnipeg, dairy breeds of cattle, and sheep; R. Blanchard, poultry; Miss Laura Rose, O. A. C., Guelph, dairy products; Miss E. Cora Hind, Winnipeg, fancy work and fine arts; Martin Burrill, Grand Forks, B. C., fruit; W. C. McKillican, seed division, Calgary, grains etc.

One of the features of this year's fair, and one that it would be well to develop is the exhibition of industries in operation. A splendid exhibit was made by the New Westminster Tannery and Leckie shoe factory, boots being made in the buildings on the grounds by machinery during the day; there were also some weavers at work with a very primitive loom. The manual training classes also attracted considerable attention and, although the management tried hard, it was found impossible to get a demonstrator in domestic science, a feature which had proved so interesting a year ago. It would, we think, be a good feature, if demonstrations of proper methods of fruit packing were made at certain hours in the day, and also buttermaking competitions. Lacrosse and baseball matches, a few horse races and band concerts were relied upon for the lighter forms of amusements; so far as we were able to see the fair was clean. The grounds are well kept and litter is promptly removed. The illumination of the buildings was very tastefully arranged. The horsemen's comfort was also looked after, the stalls having been floored. The district exhibits were very fine and the competition keen; the Experimental Farm had the usual exhibit, although Superintendent T. A. Sharpe was much missed, his absence being due to the fact that he had to undergo a very serious operation quite recently; towards the close of the fair his many friends were cheered to hear that he had come through the operation well. As the fair grows, rather better provision will need to be made for feeding the crowds, privileges we believe should be charged for, and those getting them made to keep up to a certain acceptable standard. The street car service between Vancouver and New Westminster was seriously taxed to handle the traffic to the fair grounds although the two railroads C.P.R. and G.N.R. did their best to alleviate conditions.

LIVE STOCK.

HORSES: Although cattle came first on the prize list, the horse, it must be acknowledged, was the great drawing card in the live stock section, the Clydesdales especially making a very fine exhibit. One great lack of the live stock show is a catalog which we believe the management would be wise in undertaking.

Space will only permit brief mention of the horses, fine exhibits were made by the following importers: Thos. Mercer, Markdale, Ont.; Jas. Smith, Brandon, Man.; Alex. Galbraith & Son, Brandon, Man.; as well as the local men. In the aged class, five horses came out headed by the well known black Storm King, wonderfully im-