

raire the quality of the cattle grown on Canadian farms to a standard equal to the best to be seen in the fat cattle classes at the International. There is room in this country for a cattle trade on a far greater scale than is the case at the present time. Let our breeders then continue to produce the best of stock and let their surplus stock be well distributed over the country, and we need not care whether Uncle Sam wishes to buy our pure-breeds or not.

The Important Thing

The finishing of our beef cattle in Canada and the establishment of the dressed meat trade were among the important points touched upon by more

than one of the leading speakers at Guelph last week. Their views quite coincided with the salient features of the article on the dressed meat trade in last issue. There is no doubt the establishment of this trade in Canada is the thing needed to place the business of cattle raising in this country on a safe and profitable basis. It is now up to the governments and others interested to do something towards securing the establishment of this industry at central points at an early date.

But we shall have more to say on this subject in later issues. In the meantime, these columns are open for a full and free discussion of the whole question. Let us hear from you.

The Provincial Winter Fair

The Provincial Winter Fair of 1903, held on Dec. 7-11, at Guelph, Ont., is without doubt the greatest fair of its kind held anywhere. While the great International can justly boast of greater size, larger numbers and a massiveness that our winter fair cannot begin to measure up to, yet it does not come right down to the people and touch them with practical and definite instruction of the most valuable kind as does the educational show at Guelph. For this reason we may safely say that we have in the Provincial Winter Fair at Guelph one of the most unique fairs of its kind in the world and one of which every Canadian may well be proud.

The fair this year excelled all previous ones. The attendance was ahead of any previous year, and the exhibits in most cases ahead of any previous winter fair record. Owing to our pages being crowded with other matter, and the show being held so near the date of issue, we find it impossible to get anything like an adequate report of the different classes ready for this number. Our special report of the show and the meetings, especially prepared by FARMING WORLD commissioners, will be worth keeping. It will appear next issue. In the meantime the following running comments on the show as a whole will have to suffice.

LIVE STOCK

The cattle section was ahead of anything yet seen at the winter fair. While the Shorthorn breed largely predominated, the "doddies," the "curly" blacks, and the white faces made a good showing. Col. W. B. Ferguson, of Picton Hill, Perth, Scotland, who judged the fat cattle at Chicago and also at Guelph, stated to the writer that the percentage of inferior animals at Guelph was no larger than at Chicago. It was larger, however, than is to be seen at the English fat stock shows, where the feeder and fitter knows more about the kind of cattle likely to win and sends only the best. The champion fat steer of the show belonged to that veteran feeder, Mr. James Leask, who now obtains full possession of the challenge cup which goes to South Ontario to remain there. There was a good showing of export steers. As contrasted with a couple of years ago, there has been considerable improvement in this regard though we would like to see more of the baby beef type on top.

In sheep the number of exhibits was not as large as a year ago. The quality of the whole was good, though there was, perhaps, not as many outstanding animals as have been seen at previous shows. There was, however, a splendid representative exhibit of this important branch of our live stock industry which will be dealt with in detail later.

The swine section was stronger than ever before and especially in the bacon classes, where a fine even lot of bacon hogs were to be seen. The contest in this section was most keen. In the pure-bred bacon class, J. E. Brethour, Burford, Ont., was again first with a hog pen of pure-bred Yorkshires, which also won the sweepstakes in the carcass competition. Jos. Featherstone, Streetsville, Ont., was first in the grade class, getting on a pen of Yorkshires grades. He also won the championship on his grade pen for the best lot of bacon hogs on foot.

POULTRY

The show of poultry excelled anything ever seen in Canada. There were 150 more entries than in 1902, and a better display of the utility or farmers' breeds would be hard to find. Of this class the Buff Orpingtons made the largest display of any one breed and a very fine one it was. There were 50 pullets in one class alone. This exhibit was larger than the Rock exhibit in 1902, which attracted so much attention. In the Barred Rock section there were two classes, one for professionals and one for novices, with the latter having double the number on exhibition. Dark Brahmas were larger than they have ever been. The Wyandottes were about the same in numbers, with the Buffs exceptionally good. Cocksins, Leghorns, etc., were out in good force with quality fine throughout. The Polands and lighter breeds were much the same in quality and quantity as we have seen at former shows. There was a splendid exhibit of turkeys, geese and ducks, with competition keen. In all, there were 3,000 birds on exhibition.

The dressed poultry made a fine showing with the quality of a higher order than usual. Exhibitors are learning to dress and finish their poultry better, and it certainly presented a fine appearance. The usual exhibit of poultry supplies was made.

THE MEETINGS

The unique feature of the Winter Fair is the number of meetings held, at which practical talks and demonstrations are given. While a great many of the subjects taken up on previous occasions were discussed, they were not without interest, and the capacity of the lecture hall was taxed on most occasions to hold those who desired admittance. Hundreds had to be turned away. New faces are constantly appearing to whom the old subjects are new, while the present other years seem as anxious as ever to obtain further light. A little variety was added this year by the introduction of stereoscopic views into a few of the lectures.

As with the show itself, we shall have

to defer any detailed report of the meetings till a later issue. The gatherings in the lecture hall were of the most practical kind and will furnish material for a lot of good matter for future issues. One of the greater events of the show is the public meeting in the City Hall. At this gathering the citizens of Guelph and the visitors met together to enjoy the good speeches and the good music. This year's gathering, while not giving much of a practical nature, was most interesting, and served to take one away for an hour or two from the strain of the more practical and useful.

The Hon. John Dryden occupied the chair. Addresses of welcome were made by His Worship the Mayor of Guelph, and Messrs. J. P. Downey, M.P.P., and Hugh Guthrie, M.P. The addresses of the last two were most eloquent and appropriate. After a reply by the chairman, Dr. Rutherford, chief veterinarian for the Dominion, gave a most interesting address. Referring to the cattle embargo, he thought it sound policy to finish our cattle on our own grain and to send over the finished product as dressed meat. He strongly advocated that something should be done by the authorities and those interested, to develop the dressed meat trade. There had never been any basis for the rumor that Canadian cattle had pleuro-pneumonia, and the least the British Government could do was to acknowledge that a mistake had been made.

Col. Ferguson, referring to the show, said that it compared favorably with the best British shows of a similar character. "You can beat us all out in pigs, and you can also beat us in poultry," said the speaker. The British were more advanced in the block test. He stated that three-fourths of the people in Britain were opposed to a removal of the embargo. Why, he would not say. He thought it was the Canadians to feed and fit their own cattle.

Dr. Mills followed with one of his usual stirring and instructive addresses. An excellent musical program was provided by Captain Macdonald, who was assisted by Cyril Dwight Edwards, of London, and Miss Augusta Kaiser.

A large number of annual meetings were held during show week, but particulars regarding them will have to be deferred till next issue.

Sheepmen Have a Grievance

A number of the sheepmen and chiefly Canadians at that, have a serious and a just grievance against the management of the International Show at Chicago. In the Leicester, Dorset Horn, and Lincoln sections the prize list was cut down to one-money prize in each class. The reason for this is not clear. The Leicesters in 1902 put in a good showing, but the competition was also did the Dorset Horns. The Lincolns, while practically shown by one exhibitor, put up one of the best sheep exhibits at the show. This grievance would not be so serious if all were treated alike. The Cotswolds, for example, put up no better show than the others, with little if any better competition, and yet they retain their old standing prize. The number the great International should be above any petty discrimination of this kind, and unless the management are prepared to treat all alike the classes referred to will not appear another year. Where there is little if any competition for the cutting down of the number made, there might be some justification for the cutting down of the number of prizes. But there have been no weak exhibits in the classes so dealt with this year, and if the management wish to be fair and impartial they should put all on an equal footing for 1904.