

# The Farming World

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## The First Provincial Sale

**T**HE great event of the week in the agricultural line was the Provincial Auction sale at Guelph, a report of which appears elsewhere in this issue. It certainly marks an important era in the history of the live stock industry in Canada, and should prove an important factor in advertising Canadian pure bred stock abroad, and in enlarging the market for good stock at home. The results of the sale may not have come up to the expectations of its most sanguine promoters, but considering the large number of animals offered, and the rather inferior quality of many of them, the sale throughout must be considered a success. The attendance was large, the hotels being taxed to their utmost to provide accommodation for the visitors from a distance, many of whom were there from the United States, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and the intervening provinces and territories. The new winter fair building was utilized for the sale and served the purpose very well, though the seating accommodation provided did not begin to meet the requirements of the crowd around the sale ring, thus making it more difficult for the auctioneers to be heard and the animals to be seen.

The sale was largely a Shorthorn one, over 125 animals of this breed being offered. The demand for this class of stock was good and high quality brought high prices. Of the 100 bulls sold fully seventy-five per cent. of them were only of medium quality, while some few should never have been brought into the ring. A great many of the animals, especially the bulls, though of fair quality and breeding, were not in condition. A little better fitting would have added from 25 to 50 per cent. to their value. In one or two instances animals with no better breeding or individuality, but in excellent shape, brought more than their market value. The younger or smaller breeder, for he is the one chiefly lacking in this particular, must learn to feed and fit his animals better if he wishes to reach the top price at a big auction sale, and many of them we trust carried home a most valuable lesson in this regard. While breeding and individuality count the animal itself must be in a condition to show off these to

the best advantage. This was most strikingly demonstrated throughout the sale, and was an object lesson which those at the sale will never forget.

The highest priced animal was Lord Roberts, bred and contributed by Alex. Moore, Greenwood, Ont. He is a roan, calved March 18th, 1900, and sold to N. Dymont, Barrie, Ont., for the handsome figure of \$315. He was a fine specimen of the breed and was well brought out. While his selling at such a high price proves most conclusively that quality counts. Had he been bred by some one of our larger breeders who have a wide reputation for good stock, we might have looked for a pretty good figure, but the fact that Mr. Moore is one of the smaller breeders, shows that it is within the reach of every breeder, great or small, to obtain a good price when he has the right quality to dispose of. The average price obtained for the bulls sold was within a few cents of \$75, and for the females \$95 each, which are very good indeed for a public sale of this kind.

These prices would have been materially increased by leaving a number of the inferior animals at home, which, however, might have proven a hardship to the owners. We learn that there are a great many of this medium class of stock in the country awaiting a market, whose owners expect that at a sale conducted under Government auspices, an opportunity shall be given to offer them for sale. Then it must be remembered that this class of bulls are in demand on the Western ranges, the owners of which will not pay high prices, from \$50 to \$75 each being their limit. As special efforts had been made to induce purchasers from the West, or their representatives, to attend the sale, it would not have been fair to these parties to prevent this medium class of bulls from being offered. As it was, a great many were sold for ranching purposes, and as they will be taken out of the province there will be an opportunity for better quality to take their place. Then the average farmer does not care to pay a very high price for a bull, though we think it would pay him to do so if he cannot get good quality otherwise. From \$75 to \$100 is his limit, and there were a number of good, useful bulls sold within these figures to farmers that will do good service on grade cows.

The Shorthorn cows offered were, on the