

## The Breeder and Grazier.

### The Display of Stock at the Recent Exhibition.

#### CATTLE.

This was one of the most interesting and satisfactory departments of the exhibition. In point of numbers it was certainly somewhat below that of Hamilton last year. This circumstance, however, finds its natural explanation in the fact that London is, comparatively speaking, on the border of the Province, and remote breeders were deterred from competing, from the fact that animals suffer materially in appearance and condition by being conveyed long distances in hot weather. Still, there can be no dispute of the fact that the quality of the animals on the ground would compare favourably with those of any previous exhibition, while the interest that was evinced in the more remarkable specimens by the large numbers of farmers who surrounded their pens, augurs well for the future stock of the country.—Owing to some unaccountable reason, many lots of live stock entered for competition did not reach the show ground up to the time of closing on Tuesday night. Whether this unpardonable delay was to be attributed to the exhibitors themselves, or to an insufficient supply of trucks on the part of the railway management, for promptly forwarding the animals from the various points, must be left for a future chapter of incidents to explain. The onus of the blame, in all probability, rested somewhere between both parties; but in the meantime we think it would have been well if the directors and superintendents of the Fair had excluded animals or anything else entered for competition that did not arrive within the limits of the specified time. As it was, the original programme was set at naught, and something very much resembling disorganization, if not chaos, reigned supreme. Instead of the judges of live stock meeting in the committee room at 9 a. m. on Tuesday, and commencing their duties forthwith, as the official arrangements enacted, those gentlemen never began at all during the entire day. Towards noon the attendants on the respective pens of animals began to suspect that the quadrupeds under their charge would not be judged that day, and with a laudable feeling of independence and curiosity, forthwith felt it an incumbent duty to vacate their posts and see the sights of the Fair. In the meantime, fully two-thirds of the animals shown had no exhibition tickets—setting forth the class, section, article and exhibitor—attached. They had either not been procured from the Secretary, or, if they had, they were neither "fastened securely to the article," according to the printed instructions, nor to the stalls themselves.—With the attendants *non sunt*, it can readily be imagined that any attempt to evolve particulars respecting the animals might fitly be characterized as a pursuit of knowledge under almost insuperable difficulties. The arrangement of the animals in the show grounds we thought objectionable. In the case of the Durhams especially, animals exhibited by individuals of position and influence were allowed privileges—on payment—which are not within the reach of ordinary agriculturists. We forbear to mention names; but will merely state that some cattle were entirely separated from the class in which they were exhibited, and located in the more comfortable lodgings of a horse box, under lock and key. The fact that any exhibitor might have had the same accommodation for extra valuable specimens of his cattle, by paying for it, is not a sufficient justification of this practice. Most of the animals entered to compete for prizes are deemed highly valuable by their respective owners; and so long as a range of stalls are constructed for the lodgment of the competing animals in each class, all the cattle entered in that class should be compelled to occupy them. It is for the managers to see that the comfort and safety of the animals are secured by the buildings reared for their accommodation; but if they appear defective in either of these particulars, let the whole class be located in horse boxes on an equal footing, without taxing the pockets of exhibitors to many of whom a few additional dollars may be a great consideration.—The present practice establishes an entirely mischievous precedent, and will ultimately tend, if persevered in, to banish all but agricultural capitalists from the lists of competition, and thus sap the vitality of a valuable institution.

When the judges of the various sections of animals commenced their labours at nine o'clock on Wednesday morning, it soon became evident that the postponement until that day was unfortunate. Crowds of spectators surrounded every exhibiting arena, and tended materially to retard progress, while any attempt to elbow a passage through the dense encircling mass to inspect the animals, or to obtain from the judges their respective awards, was a sheer

impossibility. Biped inexpressibles, and bipeds in erminette of the most preposterous dimensions—formed a barrier that required some courage and much perseverance to squeeze through. There was nothing for it but to dodge round and round, stretch the neck to its maximum length, and cautiously insert the head at the end of it into some loop-hole left between a bonnet and a hat. By means of a series of determined insinuations of this nature we contrived to see what was going on, and on some occasions actually managed to pass the living barrier, and triumphantly plant ourselves among the judges and animals in the centre. Our facilities for inspection, and for gathering particulars of the various animals, were not, however, so satisfactory as we could have desired, and our criticism must, therefore, necessarily be somewhat imperfect. Thus much premised, we proceed to record our general impressions.

#### DURHAMS.

The principal exhibitors in this class were the Hon. David Christie, Mr. Snell, Edmonton; and Mr. F. W. Stone, of Guelph. The former showed eight animals, and the boxes in which they were located were continually surrounded by eager crowds of wondering admirers. The immense proportions of the two celebrated cows, "Queen of Athelstane" and "Pride of Athelstane," evoked some amusing criticisms from the spectators, and the possibility, not to mention the fact of either of them breeding, seemed to be regarded as still another addition to the many wonders of the age. Mr. Christie's other six animals were "Princess of Athelstane;" a finely formed mild-eyed heifer named "Placada;" another well-developed heifer with a good-humoured expression of eye, rightly christened "May Queen;" and "Crown Princess of Athelstane," one of the handsomest little roan animals we ever beheld. It is almost superfluous to add that all of these animals were shown in fine form, and were splendid representatives of their class. Two bulls—"Crown Prince," fifteen months old, and "Oxford Lad," five years old—completed the list of Mr. Christie's entries. The former is a fine deep-chested animal, and exhibits symptoms of great promise. He has good loins and thighs and well sprung ribs, and just such an animal as one would like to breed from. "Oxford Lad" is an animal of magnificent proportions, of good colour, with a fine long level carcase and a beautiful head, which he carries with considerable gaiety. Mr. Snell, of Edmonton, exhibited no less than twenty-two animals in this class. With hardly an exception, they were magnificent specimens of this fine breed, and reflected the highest credit on their enterprising proprietor. We may state that this splendid herd was composed of nine bulls, four cows, one three year old heifer, two year old do, two one year old and two heifer calves. Mr. F. W. Stone exhibited nine superior animals in this class.—They were comprised of two aged cows, one of which, a red and white one, is a square symmetrically proportioned animal, kindly to the touch, and possessing a bright gentle eye—five heifers of various ages, and a year old bull, and a bull calf. Mr. Thos. Stock, of Waterdown, C. W., exhibited six very creditable animals. His red and white aged cow is an attractive dame, with a sweet eye and finely-rounded carcase, although her horns are rather long. One or two of the remaining animals shown by Mr. Stock were rather coarse in the hair, and were not so inviting to the touch as we could desire. Mr. B. Charlton showed a year old roan bull, twenty months old, with fine glossy skin and splendid shape. Mr. James Davison, Paris, showed a fine bull four years old. He was not so large as some others on the ground, but he possessed some fine points. Robert Routledge, London, competed with a four year old white bull. He is somewhat coarse in the horn, and altogether hardly up to the mark with respect to condition. An equal division of the fat of this bull and one of the most corpulent of Mr. Christie's animals, could the operation have been satisfactorily accomplished, would have been mutually beneficial. Other exhibitors in this class were Mr. Jos. Salkeld, Stratford, a fine 3 year old roan bull; Mr. Thompson, Whitby, a white bull 2 years old, and a roan heifer of the same age; Mr. John Irwin, Dorchester, showed a superior two year old white bull, and Mr. Thomas Nichol, Westminster, a red and white three year old cow; Mr. John Mason's two year old roan bull was a promising animal, and a dark roan bull shown by Mr. Francis Nichol, possessed great depth of chest, well sprung ribs and fine level back; Mr. Geo. Black, Nisouri, exhibited a light roan bull, three year old, which is another of the many well developed animals in this class; Mr. Alex. Grant showed a red bull calf which we regard as a very promising animal.

In the section of aged bulls, eight splendid animals entered the competition lists.

It is not exaggerating the merits of these animals when we say that scarcely one of them was second rate. Seldom have we seen a group of finer animals to-

gether. Every feature of perfection and point of excellence that characterize this magnificent breed was represented. The judges spent the greater portion of an hour in determining the animal to which the first prize should be awarded. They were evidently impressed with the responsibility of the duty assigned to them. After the most minute examination, both by sight and touch, they finally assigned the place of honour to the Hon. David Christie's fine red bull "Oxford Lad." We noticed that this animal was somewhat lame, but as we have already remarked, he is a splendid beast, and notwithstanding that many persons on the ground would have placed him in an inferior position on the prize list, a careful examination disposes us to coincide in the judges' award. The second honours rightly fell on "Marion Duke," a splendid roan, and the property of the veteran breeder Mr. Miller. He is a very sweet roan bull, and distinguished by great substance, good loins and thighs, and well sprung ribs. The third prize was awarded to Mr. Stephen Moffatt's bull, "Nichol," another meritorious animal, also a roan.

For the other awards in this class, we must refer our readers to the prize list.

#### HEREFORDS.

The competition in this class was entirely monopolized by Mr. F. W. Stone, Guelph. No competitor presumed to enter the lists against the twenty-five splendid animals that he exhibited in this class. He therefore made a clean sweep of the prizes; and few who observed the fine form and substance of the picturesque animals composing this fine herd but would agree that he eminently deserved the honours and emoluments arising from the distinction. If any further evidence were necessary to establish Mr. Stone's skill and judgment as a breeder, it was abundantly furnished by the appearance of his Herefords.

#### DEVONS.

In this attractive and useful class a considerable falling off was noticeable in the entries in comparison with last year's show. The animals were, however, almost uniformly excellent. The fine herd of twenty-eight, shown by Mr. J. Pincomb, comprised some really splendid specimens of the breed. Mr. Spooner, Kingston, exhibited a splendid three-year old bull. The other principal exhibitors in this class were Messrs. John Hart, Exeter; Isaac Saul, London; John Peters, London, and Michael Purdue, Campbell's Cross.

As our readers will observe our illustration represents Mr. John Pincombe's bull to whom the judges rightly awarded the diploma as being the best of any age in this class.

#### AYRSHIRES.

In this class were comprised some fine animals, more especially the heifers, which were uniformly good. The principal exhibitors were: Messrs. W. Wheeler, Woburn, W. Weld, Delaware; W. H. Cassery, London, and John Miller, Pickering. Two remarkably sweet looking heifers were also shown by Mr. H. C. Thompson, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture; and Colonel Denison also exhibited seven very fine animals in this class.

#### GALLOWAYS.

These were a most interesting lot of animals. Some of the bulls were really beautiful creatures, with bright soft skins, finely shaped carcasses and heads, and the glossy hair of their necks curled as beautifully as that on the back of a water spaniel. The principal exhibitor in this class was Mr. Snell, of Edmonton; and his aged bull which carried off the first honours was a fine model of a beast, and an excellent representative of this interesting breed. Mr. Alexander Kerr, of Westminster, also showed some fine animals, and deservedly carried off a fair share of the prizes. Messrs. William Hood and Thomas McCrae, of Guelph; A. McNeill, of Vaughan; and D. Youle, of Stanley, also obtained prizes for animals exhibited in this class.

#### ANGUS CATTLE.

There were but few entries in this class; but the animals shown were very fair specimens of the breed. As in the case of the Herefords the prizes in this class all fell to the share of one exhibitor—Mr. James Nimmo, of Camden.

#### GRADE CATTLE.

Some very fine animals were exhibited in this class. The cow shown by Mr. Thomas Stock, of Waterdown, and which obtained the first prize in her section, was well deserving the distinction. The same exhibitor carried off some other prizes in this class. Other successful competitors were Messrs. William Irwin, Westminster; G. Shipley, London; W. and J. Peters, London; John Stiles, London; and W. J. Hill, Gladstone.

#### WORKING OXEN.

These huge animals were an interesting feature of the Fair. As some of the yokes stood quietly and