

How We Trained for the Judging Competition at Guelph*

Members of the Highest Standing Teams Tell How They Prepared for the Inter-County Meet at the Winter Fair

How Steckley Trained the Winners

By James Hope, Newmarket, Ont.

IN giving an account of the training the York County stock judging team received in preparation for judging at the Guelph Fair, I will start back on the 8th of November, when we had our first workout. About 25 fellows met at the Department of Agriculture office, Newmarket, and proceeded to the farm of Mr. Edgar Dennis to judge Aberdeen-Angus cattle. We were given score cards and had to write the animals as we thought right and give our reasons. After we had placed them, Mr. Steckley, our District representative and coach, placed them correctly and pointed out the good and bad points of each animal. From Mr. Dennis we went to Mr. Roy Shaw's farm, Yonco St., for Holstein cattle.

The next week we went to Mr. Kilgour's at Eglinton, where we had classes of Holstein cattle, Clydesdale horses and Shropshire sheep. Here, instead of giving our reasons with the animals before us, we went before Mr. Steckley and gave our reasons orally. This was much harder, but helped us a lot when we got to Guelph.

The following week we were out three times. First we went to John Gardhouse & Sons at Highfield for Shorthorn cattle, then to P. Boynton & Sons, Dollar, where we judged Berkshire and Tamworth swine and Cotswold and Leicester sheep. On Saturday we visited James Torrance, Markham, to see some Clydesdale horses, and Jas. Robertson, Markham, for Shorthorn cattle. Five of us were still in the running for places on the team, but after a week's work Mr. Steckley picked out the three highest, although there was very little difference between us. Charlie Boynton and Harry Hill tied for first place, the writer coming next.

The next week we were out only one day, on which we went to Wm. Hill's, Queensville, for Percheron horses, and to Mr. Blackburn's at Kettleby for Shropshire sheep. After each class Mr. Steckley would coach us in giving reasons, and he surely did drill us at times. In fact, what success we achieved at Guelph was due to his coaching and his energy in making us work for all we were worth.

How the Durham Boys Were Drilled

By Wilfred Elson, Millbrook.

THE three young farmers who were selected from Durham County by District Representative Duncan to compete for the trophy offered by the Minister of Agriculture at the Ontario Winter Fair in the Inter-Judging Competition were: A. C. Bragg, Bowmanville; Harry Philip, Nestleton, and the writer. All had taken a special short course in agriculture held by Mr. Duncan. In addition to the practice received at these courses in live stock judging, four days were spent in visiting a number of stock farmers and in getting practice in judging all classes of live stock. This training was received just previous to going to Guelph. The following is a short account of our visits to these farms and of the classes of stock judged at each place. The names of the breeders mentioned will, no doubt, be

familiar to many readers of Farm and Dairy.

On Thursday, Nov. 23, we visited the farm of Senator Oliver, of which W. H. Furber is manager. Here we had a class of Ayrshire heifers and a class of mature Ayrshire cows. We then called at Mr. D. B. Tracy's, where we had two classes of mature Holstein cows. From here we proceeded to the farm of Geo. Holdsworth, where we judged Shropshire ewe lambs, and then on to Mr. H. A. Holdsworth's, where a class of Oxford Downs were placed. On the following day we visited the farms of Thos. Allin & Sons, H. & M. Allin, A. A. Colwell and F. B. Lovekin, all of Newcastle, as well as R. T. Gill, of Bowmanville. During this day's judging we had an opportunity of placing Cotswolds and Leicester sheep and Tamworth, Yorkshire and Berkshire swine.

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, a special one-day short course was being held at Blackstock and we took

observation and study. The eye must be quick to detect the least variation from the correct standard. When a distinct ideal, based on the best types and their highest quality, has been formed in the mind, and this is supported by a discriminating eye, it will be found an easy matter to render a correct judgment.

The Simcoe Team Well Coached

Irving T. McMahon, Hawkestone.

THE young men on the Simcoe stock judging team had previously attended short courses in agriculture. Mr. Gilchrist took the course three years ago in Barrie. Mr. Reid and the writer attended the course last year in Orillia. Both courses were conducted by Jas. Laughland, B.S.A., district representative, and proved very instructive in all the departments of the work which he took up. On Nov. 21 we began training for the competition. As there was no snow we were able to motor from one place to another. On that date we went over the Hospital for the Feeble-minded at Orillia, where an excellent herd of dairy Shorthorns is kept, and also some Yorkshire hogs of the bacon type. From there we went to Mr. John Allan's, South Orillia, where we had a demonstration in sheep judging. Mr. Allan has a carefully selected flock of Leicesters, some of which would do credit to any show ring. The day following we went to Mr. Jas. Caldwell's, Shanty Bay, where we had a good class of Shorthorns and Clydesdale mares. Mr. Caldwell has been a careful breeder of these two lines of stock for over half a century. In addition, Mr. Caldwell has a select flock of Cotswold sheep, which was also used in course of instruction.

We also visited the stock farm of Mr. Henry Gilchrist, who is a breeder of Clydesdales, Shorthorns, Shropshires and Yorkshires. In the afternoon we attended a meeting at Mr. Partridge's, Crown Hill, conducted by Mr. Jas. Barber, of Waterloo County, on stock judging, which was held in connection with the Farmers' Institute. There were some good specimens of dairy Shorthorns as well as a good class of butchers' cattle. Mr. Barber gave some valuable information in regard to the conformation of the different types of stock. The next day Mr. Barber and Mr. Wiggins, assistant district representative, joined Mr. Laughland, and we all went to Mr. Richard Roe's, Hawkestone, who specializes in Clydesdale horses. Mr. Roe is one of the leading horse breeders of the country. Individuals of his breeding have been decorated with the championship ribbons at Guelph and Chicago. Here we found it an easy matter to secure a good class of breeding mares and a class of fillies. In the afternoon we went to Mr. Geo. Kirkpatrick's, Oro Station, who has been a careful breeder of Shorthorns for the last 50 years, and has some individuals that would hold their own in stock competition. Here we had a class of breeding stock and a class of butcher cattle. This completed our course of instruction. You will see that all five classes of stock were covered excepting dairy cattle. If you will examine our score you will see we were all away off on this class. This was the reason, at least we think so, and we will ever regret that we did not make an effort to secure a class of dairy cattle of distinct dairy breeds.



The Western Ontario Judging Champions, Their Trainer and the Trophy. From left to right: Jas. Hope, Harry Hill, Charlie Boynton and J. C. Steckley, B.S.A., District Representative for York, who coached the team.

it in. Here we had two classes each of beef cattle and heavy horses. The next day we proceeded to Solina, where we had two classes of Shropshire sheep at the farm of Thos. Baker & Son, and two classes of beef cattle and heavy horses at the short course which was being held at the village. Excellent types of animals were to be found at all the farms which we visited, and I would like to make special mention of the excellent Holsteins seen on the farm of Mr. D. B. Tracy.

In training the team the same method was followed by Mr. Duncan that was followed this year at the winter fair. Twenty minutes were given to place each class and write reasons. Afterward we had to give the reasons orally. Mr. Duncan and the owners of the animals offering suggestions as to where our reasons might be improved. At the Blackstock and Solina short courses we had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Baker, of Hamilton, lecture on heavy horses, and W. J. Bell, of Toronto, on beef cattle.

In conclusion, I would like to mention some of the factors which I consider must be possessed and which seem to require special development in order to judge live stock. They are observation and judgment. The eye must see quickly and accurately, so that there may be no mistake in the observations which are to form a basis for the conclusions. A distinct ideal must be formed in one's mind, and this will require experience,

* York County stood first, Durham second and Simcoe third in the inter-county judging competition at the Guelph Winter Fair. Jas. Hope of York, took first place in judging dairy cattle, and Wilfred Elson, of Durham, topped the list on horses.