

Stock Department.

The Display of Animals at the Recent Exhibition.

HORSES.

Those who were anxious to see the horses at an early period of the show, found the task a difficult one. After wading through the mud perseveringly, till an open door could be found, in many cases the difficulties were not fully surmounted. The animals were to be seen, but any information in reference to them was often unattainable. The grooms in attendance frequently were unable to give any particulars in reference to the animals under their charge—even as to the class in which they were entered. Where the owners of the horses or intelligent grooms were present, they were sufficiently communicative. At a later period of the show there were better facilities for inspecting the fine animals in this class, as they were brought out, and made to display themselves to the best advantage. Then the horse-ring was the centre of attraction to a large crowd of spectators, including a number of reverend gentlemen who seemed to take as much interest in this feature of the exhibition as any other class of men. The ladies also formed a considerable proportion of the immense mass who crowded about the enclosure devoted to the horses, and some few of them graced the grand stand during the latter part of the day. Their interest seemed to centre on the carriage teams and driving horses, and, above all, on the saddle horses or their riders.

THOROUGH-BRED HORSES.—A few very fine thorough-breds were to be seen, though all of those entered were not on the ground at the time of our inspection of them. Among these was "Kennett," shown by Mr. Arkland, of Oshawa. This horse, which has taken the prize for a couple of years past, is a beautiful golden bay, sixteen hands high, presenting as high-bred an appearance as the most fastidious horseman could desire. "Mary Mansfield," by "Lexington," dam by "Glencoe," and her yearling filly, "Kenneth," complete Mr. Arkland's stock on exhibition. A finer lot could not be found. Mr. Simon Beattie, of Markham, shows "Promised Land," imported in 1865. Last year, at London, he took the first prize in the class of three-year olds, as well as the diploma as best horse of any age, and we saw nothing on the ground of finer mould than the game-looking black colt that wears the above happy title. That he will retain the proud position he won last year, is highly probable. Mr. Sheddon, of Toronto, also contributed to this not very numerous class, and his "Grace Darling," three-year old filly, coal black, may very appropriately be put next to "Promised Land." She was got by "Sir Tatton," and displays the peculiar characteristics of the thorough-bred horse in the highest degree, and will, like the other three-year old black, probably acquire "name and fame" when brought upon the turf. J. & J. White, of Trafalgar, showed "Augusta," by "Leviathan," and foal by "Beauford," "Maratona" by "Flatcatcher," and foal by "Ruric," a three-year old bay filly from "Countess" by "Kenneth," and a yearling by "Jack the Barber." Although the two and three-year olds of this stud are scarcely as fine as "Promised Land" and "Grace Darling," Messrs. White must win a place in the roll of honour. "Glencoe," a light chestnut, sixteen and-a-half hands in height, owned by Gilbert Smith, of Norway, is a beautiful horse, and carries more flesh than any other blooded horse we saw in the stables. He traces his pedigree back a couple of generations, to the imported horse "Glencoe," and claims affinity to the famous "Medoc," through his dam. We fancy that some blood less pure than that of either "Glencoe" or "Medoc" has got into his veins. He is a beautiful horse, but not so strong in the points of a pure thorough-bred as some of his competitors. In this class we hope to see a larger number in future years, as the general character of the horses throughout the country would be vastly improved by the infusion of such blood as that of "Kenneth," "Augusta," "Promised Land," and "Grace Darling." When brought into the ring the "Blooded Stallions" were the observed of all observers. In addition to those already named, Mr. Douglas' "Tester," and Mr. Grand's "Captain Beauford," were in the ring. "Tester" is dark brown—a powerful horse of good bone and muscle, though scarcely so elegant in appearance as his rivals. "Captain Beauford," sorrel or bright chestnut, is a beauty, and when we say that

the famed "Glencoe" was his sire, little more can be required. The blooded stock throughout was free from any overloading with fat—with perhaps one exception,—and some of the brood mares were rather too low in condition.

ROAD AND CARRIAGE HORSES.—This class was more fully represented than the previous one, and included a large variety of styles and sizes from the elegant sprightly and gentle "Black Hawk Morgan," whose qualities are so thoroughly known and appreciated all over the northern part of this continent—to the stately English coach horse, which might rival the Clyde in the plough or cart. Mr. Davis, of Richmond Hill, exhibited some elegant specimens of the lighter class of carriage horses. His "Black Hawk Morgan," which has before now carried off the honours at the Provincial Exhibition, led the competition this year. With greater substance than is generally found in horses of that strain, he combines the highest degree of excellence of form; and, his action being equal to his appearance, he deserves to stand at the head of his class. A span of mares, bred from "Black Hawk Morgan," were first rate representatives of this stock, as well as a gelding, which showed under the saddle, and another as a single carriage horse. For ladies' driving or riding horses, we saw none on the ground that could compare with Mr. Davis' stud. Of heavy carriage horses, there were several excellent representatives. "Young Performer," the property of Mr. E. Hall, of Clarke, by "Phenomenon," a three year old, and "Coachman," four years old, belonging to Mr. B. Crosby, of Markham, were both very powerful horses. Their stately appearance and well-developed muscle, distinguished them as fitting specimens of carriage horses, where speed was not the prime requisite. Mr. Philip Wideman of Ringwood, exhibited "Young Coachman," a two year old of great substance and of the same style as the preceding. Hendrie & Co., of Hamilton had a single carriage horse, a superior animal, and a two year old stallion David Eakin, of Markham, also competed for the prize for single horses, showing an elegant chestnut by "Exhibition." Many of the horses in this class have weight enough to entitle them to rank as agricultural horses, and a valuable lot they doubtless are. But show hardly action enough to suit the taste of gentlemen who drive on business in this fast age. For those who require carriage horses merely for pleasure and show, there were plenty to choose from; but of active viry roadsters, we saw very few. A distinction in the classification between roadsters and heavy carriage horses, would bring out a far better representation of the former kind. Beside those already mentioned, a couple of "Royal Georges," one a sorrel, owned by D. Lucas, of Trafalgar, and the other a bay, the property of C. J. Douglas, of Oak Ridges, were the admiration of many good horsemen. A brown horse, owned by Mr. Powell, of Lewiston, came in for favourable expressions of opinion. These are all of the heavy order, and their action would do no discredit to even light horses. In addition to Mr. Davis' "Black Hawk Morgan," Mr. Edward Major, of Borelia, exhibits "Green Mountain Morgan," of the same strain—a small horse, but of unsurpassed beauty of form and action. As for the carriage teams, nothing is wanted to make this feature of the exhibition all that could be wished, but a large number of competitors. A couple of the teams appeared at a disadvantage as compared with their more admired rivals; but all were good, and some excellent. Of single driving horses, the number was larger, and more elegant or more active horses than were shown in this class, no man need hope or wish for; many of them gave evident signs of high breeding, which is in reality the sine qua non of the gentleman's driving horse. Some there were which could make no pretensions to "blood," and though very good, and doubtless very serviceable roadsters, they cannot rival their more aristocratic competitors, where style, as well as action, is requisite. The saddle horses were an elegant company; several of them looking like promising candidates for racing honours. We predict that in a few years no horse will compete in this class except those which can claim affinity to the highest family of horses—the English thorough-bred. The value of good breeding for cavalry horses is now so universally acknowledged, that we do not doubt that the demand for this class will be largely increased in Canada, if cavalry companies continue to be formed. The splendour of the famous "Charge of the Light Brigade" was due in no small measure to the high standard of excellence which Lord Cardigan had secured in the horses which bore his brave troopers, and the successes of the Confederate cavalry, in the earlier periods of the American war, were in some degree attributable to the same cause.

AGRICULTURAL HORSES.—Of these there was plenty. Almost all of them might safely compete as draught horses, and although the value of weight in this class is beyond dispute, for our small farmers at least, who keep horses for both road work and the plough,

the heavier of the "road and carriage" class will be found more generally useful than those that are styled, *par excellence*, agricultural horses. "Suffolk Sovereign," owned by Mr. P. R. Wright, of Cobourg, stands well in this class—a compact, powerful animal, and of good size. "Toronto Exhibition," the property of John Colly, of Albion, is also a good animal. His colour is a dark bay, and his great muscular development stamps him as a horse equal to any labour that may be demanded of him. Mr. A. Buchanan, of Glenmorris, exhibited a two year old of the "Royal Sovereign" stock, that will find but few competitors of his age. Duncan McLenahan, of Clarke, has a couple of fillies a two year old by "Loudon Tom," and a yearling by "Comet," that are fairly entitled to a place at the Provincial Exhibition. Richard Thomas, of Etobicoke, exhibits a team of mares, dark brown, four year olds, that would be a prize to a ploughman. The agricultural horses were a very numerous class, including so many animals of superior quality, that the task of the Judges must have been one of considerable difficulty. On no previous occasion has such a number of horses of such decided excellence competed at the Provincial Exhibition.

HEAVY DRAUGHT HORSES.—In this class we have the most striking specimens of the horse kind that the country affords. As in cattle the huge Durhams take the eye of the mass of spectators, so in horses—the heavy draught horses are the objects of chief interest, to the uninitiated at least. No one but a horseman would fix his attention on "Promised Land" or "Miss Ross," while "Robin Hood" or the "Comet" were in view. "Robin Hood," exhibited by Mr. Thomas Hudson, of Whitby, is a splendid specimen of this class, and as far as we saw is entitled to the first place on the list of heavy draught horses. His immense size and power and his graceful form distinguished him favourably from many of the unwieldy brutes who sometimes figure in this class. Imported "Comet," owned by John Miller, of Pickering, an iron grey, is another horse who looks as if he might draw a train of cars on an ascending grade. "Comet," who stands lower by considerable than "Robin Hood," and can say but small claim to anything like elegance, gives promise of almost equal power. "Loudon Tom" a three year old shown by James Kitchin, of Whitby, will crowd most competitors of his age out of the way. "Young Tom Thumb," three years old, owned by J. McBride, "Sampson," by "Rob Roy," dam by imported "Sampson," owned by C. J. Backland, of Guelph, and "Hard Fortune," the property of Robt. Gardiner, of Toronto Township, are all excellent specimens of heavy horses. The heavy draught stallions were certainly heavy enough. A splendid development of muscle and a load of fat were combined in most of them. The Clyde was the predominant type. Though the action of some of this class bore a striking resemblance to that of the Berkshire hog, others of them carried their enormous weight with considerable elegance. We should prefer seeing other draught horses than the Clydes more numerous. However valuable they may be for certain kinds of labor, horses combining fair action with great power are far better suited to our agricultural community. With a large increase in the number of thorough-bred horses, and a more active lot of roadsters with more blood and less flesh, the recent Provincial Exhibition might claim as good a show of horses as any country could wish to muster.

CATTLE.

After a careful scrutiny of the various classes, on the ground, we think the fact is undoubted, that regarded as an average, this department compared most favourably with that of any previous year. There were undoubtedly quite as good animals, in most of the sections, shown at London last year; but, on the other hand, several head were exhibited there decidedly inferior to any single specimen to be seen at the recent Fair. In the present instance the animals were almost uniformly of a high order of excellence. Some were magnificent, and nearly all were above the average. Indeed, in the opinion of competent judges, who have attended every Provincial Exhibition for the past six years, such a display of cattle has never before been assembled in this Province. This is a gratifying circumstance, and one that augurs well for the agricultural future of the Province. In several of the classes—especially in the Devons, Ayrshires, and Grades—small farmers of comparatively limited means exhibited animals that are in the highest degree creditable to them. Nothing bears more conclusive testimony to the judgment and skill of a farmer than a finely-formed, well-conditioned sleek-coated beast. These conditions almost uniformly im-