

gardens. No class holds monopoly of the pleasure and profit in the soil. The city man, if he desires, can employ his most skillful hands and expend his tens of thousands by using this instrumentality upon his civic estate. But outside of town and city there is the favoured mass, the privileged community, that may see and hear as the sweet voice cries to them to join in the luxurious delights and rewards of suburban and country employment.

We in Canada to-day are reaping the fruits of many generations in the culture of our soil. In a general way when we speak of agriculture, in the more specific way when we think of intensive agriculture or skillful gardening, there are more fresh, unblotted pages presented, for writing thereupon, to the friends of the soil and garden in Canada than to any other people in any other portion of the world. Babylon contributed some horticultural experience to Persia. Persia handed down something improved to Greece. Greece contributed in turn to Rome, and Rome for many a day helped the countries to which her world-wide influence extended. Then Italy and France have produced their particular styles of gardening, and the Dutch have added another. But here, as in many other things, Canadians do not need to go beyond their British borders for that which, in skill and style,

may be counted the best obtainable. The Americans desire to have a way of their own, and be it acknowledged that they are progressing well. But the British type by intelligent Canadians is recognized as the preferable type for Canadian example. Eaton Hall and Drumlanrig; Chatsworth and Dalkeith; the Botanic Gardens at Sheffield and Birmingham, and the kitchen and forcing garden of His Majesty at Frogmore; the remodelled garden architecture at Trentham, and the royal gardens at Kew are all prepared to furnish, in one way or another, what is helpful to the ambitious Canadian gardener.

Lord Bacon says: "God Almighty first planted a garden; and indeed it is the purest of human pleasures. It is the greatest refreshment to the spirits of man, without which buildings and palaces are but gross handwork." One of the promising features in our young Canada at the present time is that wave of garden enthusiasm that is felt all over the land. Hence some of those who wish the very best for our country are crying—speed the day when the intelligent cultivation of the garden and field, along with artistic application of landscape skill, will forge into topmost place, in the estimation of a prosperous people, the premier enterprise of the nation.

The outlook is bright. The encouragement is enhanced by the interest manifested on the part of litterateurs who place choice columns in their publications at the disposal of those who are in sympathetic touch with "teeming old mother earth."

At this particular season when men, marking the movements of the rolling years, take a thoughtful look back, in order that they may gain momentum for the reach forward, there is a sacred impulse which would grip the future grandly. Contemplation will be rewarded by enlarged vision scanning the good time coming when "there shall be showers of blessing." In those days there will be raised up "a plant of renown." Upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold lie, and in a fat pasture shall they feed. No fallen branches shall be in the valleys. No broken boughs shall lie by the rivers. Where before there was wilderness, there will be graceful growths from "the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree." Where formerly there was desert now will be set "the fir tree, the pine, and the box together." Then the Creator shall "glorify Himself in the forest." Old earth, having recovered herself, shall join with every being that can voice a pean in showing forth praise to God.

## Prize Live Stock for Country Homes

*An Impression of the Recent Winter Fair at Guelph, Ont.*

By J. W. WHEATON

THE Ontario Provincial Winter Fair is an exhibition without frills. It is an exhibition of the best the country produces in horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry, with a sideline display of seed grain, corn and roots, by way of emphasizing the need for producing suitable crops to feed them.

The exhibitor has two objects in view when he takes his live stock to the Winter Fair—to win, if he can, some of the prize money offered, and to come in touch with possible buyers for his animals. The visitor is there mainly for one purpose—to inform himself as to the best types of animals to keep on the farm, and incidentally to become the possessor of one or two if the price is not too long for his purse. The main purpose of the exhibition is thus educational. That was the object to be attained when the first one was held twenty-nine years ago. And the same object is the cause of the gathering together of the big crowds in these latter days. It is a producers' exhibition pure and simple, and as such has demonstrated its usefulness to the country.

The Winter Fair, nevertheless, is not without interest to those who dwell in towns and cities. An institution, whether it be a winter fair or anything else, aims at improving the quality and increasing the number of meat-producing animals, and should have the goodwill and the support of the consumer, whether he live in the country or in the city. The city consumer, as a rule, concerns himself but little with such things. He buys his pound of sirloin from the family butcher. If it is juicy, tender and fine-flavoured he pays the price and is satisfied. If it turns out to be dry and of the teeth-racking order he heaps his abuse upon the butcher. His likes and dislikes hark back no further. The man who produced the choice steak gets no praise, and he who palmed off the skinny, thin beef never feels his

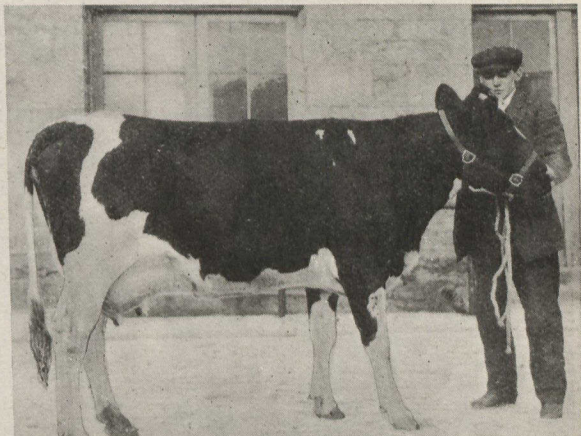
wrath. If his praise or blame is to accomplish anything, the consumer must look farther afield than the butcher shop. He must interest himself in the movements for improving quality and increasing the supply of the food that he must buy.

As to this year's Winter Fair, it ranked well with any that have gone before. Of good cattle, good sheep, and good hogs, they were on exhibition in plenty. The poultry display was the best by all odds that Canada has put up. Christmas turkeys and the lesser lights in the poultry line that grace the holiday feast were there, dressed and decorated for the occasion. It was a display that would rejoice the heart of any consumer. But few from the cities were there to see it and to give encouragement by their presence. And possibly it was just as well. The accommodation for exhibits and visitors was overcrowded as it was. 'Tis a pity, however, that it is so. The Winter Fair should be so located and so housed that every citizen would find pleasure and profit in visiting this great annual producers' exhibition.

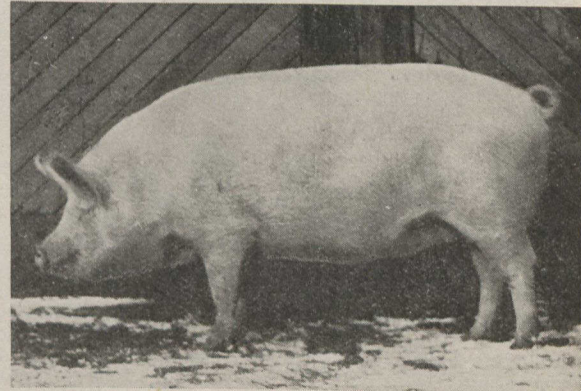
It should be the annual meeting-place for producer and consumer, where they could get together and discuss questions of mutual interest. Such meetings as these are of the greatest importance to the general community and all interested in the breeding of good cattle and poultry. The illustrations show a few of the finer types.

### To Encourage Good Breeding

SIR HENRY PELLATT has the interest of the raising of pedigree cattle and poultry very much at heart, and he showed his enthusiasm recently by inviting about six hundred farmers and families to a social gathering in the village of King, in which Sir Henry's beautiful summer home is placed at Lake Marie. The meeting was opened by Reeve MacMurchie, who introduced the host, and the reply was to the effect that the helping forward of farming was one of the aims of his life. There were two kinds of farmers, one who knew what he was doing and understood farming, and the farmer like himself from the city. The importance of good roads was insisted on. In the neighbourhood of Boston and other American cities where they had good roads, land was worth \$300 and upwards. In the township of King, they had hills and dales, splendid soil and everything that could be desired, and all they needed was good roads. When a man of the influence and intuition of Sir Henry takes up the farmers' part, much good accrues to the industry. There is not only the question of the actual farm and country roads, but of the breeding with a view to producing improved races of cattle and poultry. Cross-breeding, conducted on scientific principles, is fraught with increased possibilities and in this way the cattle of the Dominion are raised to a high level. We live in an age of competitions, and the exhibition has a levelling up force. The ardent agriculturist does not relish defeat in the battle of prizes.



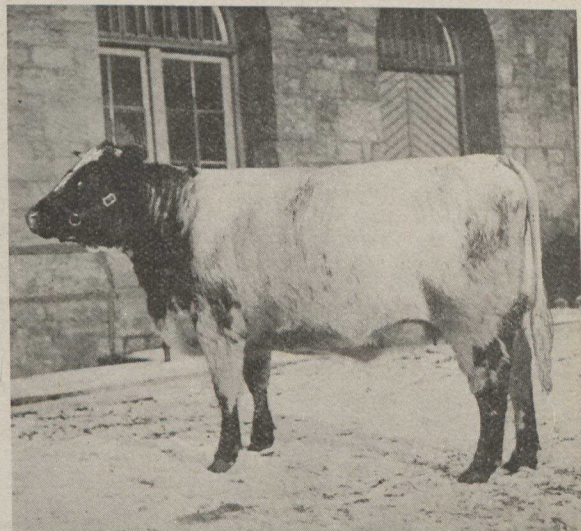
Champion Dairy Cow "Cherry" at the recent Winter Fair.



Champion Yorkshire Sow.



Champion Leicester Ewe.



The heifer "Mischief E. 3rd."