

THE DOMINION EXHIBITION AT HALIFAX, N. S.

Away down at Halifax, on the southern shore of Nova Scotia, is an annual exhibition that ranks about equal to those at London and Ottawa, Ont. It is the leading show of the Maritime Provinces, and, this year, endowed with a \$50,000 Federal grant, besides \$21,000 of civic, Provincial and corporate support, it enlarged its accommodation, increased its prize-money by about sixty per cent., to nearly \$100,000, almost doubling the premiums in the live-stock classes, and made its bow to the rest of Canada under the dignified appellation of a Dominion Exhibition. It was Dominion, too, in more than name. Quebec and Ontario were fairly well represented in live stock and some lines of manufacture, and the infant Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were advertised by effective displays, but, with a little more generous policy in advertising, a larger number of exhibitors and a much greater delegation of visitors could have been brought from the Upper Provinces to comprehend the geography and to see the opportunities for investment, the openings for trade, the beautiful scenery, and the intelligent, broad-minded people who inhabit this rich but as yet neglected and slowly developing part of the Dominion.

When we say rich, we do not refer especially to the agricultural areas, but rather to the resources of timber, minerals, fishing and marine trade, in exploiting which the Maritime Provinces are destined to excel as they did excel once before in the palmy days of wooden shipbuilding. When that went out, moneyed men felt as though the pins had been knocked from under them; they lacked knowledge and self-confidence for other lines of enterprise, and so they sat timorously down to live on the interest of their money. Thus it comes that Halifax is a rich, though rather slow city. But there are initial signs of a renaissance, of an awakening commercial and industrial life, and when it comes a growing home market will be opened up for the products of stable and field. Already it is working out. Amherst, a humming town of 8,000 people, which gained nearly 800 last year; Sydney, Glace Bay, and other places, are rapidly building up, and in their neighborhoods farmers are flourishing, while all through the Province the influence of such stimulus is more or less directly felt. The future of Maritime Canada was never brighter. There is hope for the man, aye, the young man, who will stay and persevere.

Halifax Exhibition has always been well housed, so far back as the writer's acquaintance dates. This year, however, over \$28,000 was spent in covering additional floor space. Of this, \$4,225 was for new cattle barns, of which, however, about \$2,500 worth are but temporary, being erected on the site of the old cattle-judging ring, the cattle being judged this year in the horse ring, and the horses before the grand-stand. Some of the other appropriations were, \$3,800 for a Fisheries Building, where might be seen everything in fins from a smelt to a halibut. A new office and Entrance Building cost \$5,000, an addition to the Machinery Hall \$5,000, a Manufacturers' Building \$6,000, and some speed stables \$3,000. On the whole, the grounds are fairly well laid out and convenient, although this year some delay resulted from the distance the cattle had to be brought to the judging-ring.

We did what we could with the Weather Man, and, up to the date of our reporter's departure, about the end of the first week, the days were simply delightful, and Halifaxians took full advantage of them. There is something invigorating, anyway, about the climate of the Maritime Provinces. No wonder they have bred a brainy, vigorous race.

One of the features was the show of fruit. The exhibit was opened on Monday, Oct. 1st. The display was magnificent, representing all the Provinces. The Experimental Farm display, put up by W. T. Macoun, Horticulturist, attracted a great deal of attention. The display of peaches, grapes and plums by S. D. Furminger and T. F. Bunting, of St. Catharines, Ontario, was a revelation to the people of the Provinces by the sea. Apples of all kinds were of fine quality and color, and, owing to the late date of the exhibition, were shown at their best. Prof. John Craig, of



Administration and Entrance Building, Halifax Exhibition.

Cornell University, who is well known in Canadian horticulture, judged the exhibit.

The dairy exhibit was light, particularly in cheese. Geo. Vinten, of Antigonishe Co., N. S., was the principal exhibitor, winning five prizes out of the six for which he competed. His best cheese scored 97. In butter, a better showing was made. The Sussex Cheese & Butter Co., of Sussex, N. B., (L. S. Crawford, maker), took first on everything they had. The Brookfield creamery was second, and Acadia Dairy Co., of Wolfville, N. S., was third. The effect of the Nova Scotia Government's Travelling Dairy was seen in the show of dairy butter, which was decidedly good.

For the most part, the Halifax Exhibition is well managed. M. McF. Hall, the genial manager and secretary, is a hustler, off-handed, and always ready for suggestions. He is assisted by competent men in charge of the various departments, and backed by a public-spirited executive, of which Justice J. W. Longley is president. There are, however, a few points in which improvement is possible. In the first place, we would bar all post entries in live stock except in sweepstakes classes. An incomplete catalogue is only measurably better than none at all. Then, again, to make the catalogue really useful for visitors, the ring attendants should be provided with cardboard numbers, and each man, as he enters the ring with an animal, should have the catalogue number of that entry stuck on his back, so that any observer could tell at a glance the name of the animal and its breeding. It would also facilitate identification and help visitors to recall individuals more readily, to have the color of each one mentioned in the catalogue entry, as is done at other leading shows. Then, there should be a judging programme, carefully mapped out ahead, printed, and punctiliously followed, so that exhibitors would know just when a certain class was to come out, and could make provision accordingly. It would also be a great convenience to visitors. This year, Mr. Bull, of Brampton, Ont., came all the way down to see the Jerseys judged, expecting, according to a letter from the Manager, that they would be brought on Monday or Tuesday. In the end, he had to leave before the class was complete. Such things should not occur at a county fair, much less a Provincial exhibition. We would also recommend that the prize-list be gone over and obsolete nomenclature corrected. It is rather far on in the century for a Canadian exhibition to be cataloguing "Durham," "Polled Angus" and "Quebec Jersey" cattle, when Shorthorn, Aberdeen-Angus and French-Canadian are the proper breed names. These latter are small points, of course, and have doubtless been overlooked because of their unimportance, but it grates on the ears of a live-stock man to hear breed names miscalled, and precision is surely a virtue.

HORSES.

The horses shown at the Dominion Exhibition were not as numerous as might have been expected. This probably can, to some extent, be accounted for by the few Western exhibitors present, and the local exhibitors, expecting more from Ontario and Quebec, did not make as many entries as they probably otherwise would. In

some classes the entries were very few, while in others they were both numerous and of good merit.

IN THOROUGHBREDS there was but one entry, that trappy little stallion, "Cyclist," a small horse of good quality, who has sired some very good colts, which were shown in the roadster and carriage classes, and is owned by John Doran, Windsor, N. S.

STANDARD-BREDS.—This is always a strong class in the Maritime Provinces. In the section for stallions four years old and upwards, there were 13 entries, and some very fine individuals appeared before the judge. In the lot were some horses in training, with low marks, but it is hard for a horse in racing condition to compete with one in show condition in the breeding classes. The first place was given to Sabledom, by Sable Wilkes, a horse of good size, quality, style and speed, and owned by Owen Wheelock, Middleton, N. S. Border Jr., a son of Border, and owned by Dr. J. B. Annis, Bear River, N. S., was given second place; while the third was won by The Surveyor, by The Corker, and owned by T. J. Murphy, Halifax, N. S. In three-year-old stallions, L. D. Murphy, of Digby, N. S., won with Maid's King. Frank Bouillier, of Halifax, won second with Electric Red.

Tahanto, a son of Dare Devil, and owned by Philip Gough, Halifax. In the sections for younger stallions, mares, geldings, fillies and foals, there were some animals of exceptional merit, and all the sections were well filled, but space will not allow us to enlarge. Sabledom, the winner in the aged stallion class, won as best stallion of any age. In the class for stallion and three of his get, there were some very fine youngsters. First was won by the noted stallion and sire, Border, owned by H. C. Lydiard. This horse, while practically no longer a show horse, is proving his value as a sire. The second place was won by Mr. T. J. Murphy, with The Surveyor.

IN THE ROADSTER class the entries were numerous, and many of them of high-class merit. In the section for single roadster there were 10 entries, and 8 good ones appeared, and the judges spent considerable time placing them. Mr. Hooper, of Halifax, won first, with a very fine, stylish and fast black mare. Mr. Lamphier, of Halifax, won second, with a gray daughter of Abbot Wilkes. Third went to J. O. Stevens, of Ellershous, N. S.; fourth to A. L. Pelton, Berwick, N. S., and fifth to D. G. Kirk, Antigonishe, N. S. In roadster pairs, Mr. Louis Saunders won first with a pair of large speedy blacks, of good quality, and the second prize was won by D. J. Greig, of Byronville, Que., with a very fine pair of horses, rather of carriage type and action. The number of entries in the carriage class was not large, and while there were some high-class ones, there were some of the roadster type, and while being valuable animals were turned down on account of class. In the carriage pairs Mr. D. J. Greig won with a good pair of Hackney-bred fellows. In the section for single carriage horses, W. W. Black won first with the very good Hackney-bred mare, Vic; D. G. Kirk won second; W. M. Cruthers, of Kentville, N. S., third; N. E. Chute, of Bridgetown, fourth, and I. L. Lane, of Charlottetown, P. E. I., fifth. In the other sections of this class some good youngsters were shown.

IN THE PONY CLASS Mr. G. W. Casson, of Truro, N. S., showed some very fine Welsh ponies, and Pearson McCurdy, of Halifax, showed a very fine Shetland.

THE GENERAL-PURPOSE class brought out many very useful animals, but, as usual in this class, they were of practically all types.

IN THE HEAVY DRAFT class W. W. Black, of Amherst, N. S.; Wm. Sharp, Windsor, N. S.; W. A. Aylward, Falmouth, N. S., and J. A. Bell, Shubenacadie, N. S., were the principal exhibitors, and they brought out some specimens of high quality.

IN THE HACKNEY class the entries were few, but of good quality. In the aged stallion section Hamilton & Hawthorne, of Simcoe, Ont., won with the chestnut stallion, Fashioner, a horse of good size, quality and action, and the second prize was given to British Tar, owned by the same firm. In the section for brood mares, W. W. Black won with his grand old mare, Miss Lynn; while second place was given to the same owner's mare, Dignity.

IN THE COACH HORSE class, first and second for aged stallions were won by Robt. Ness & Son, of Howick, Que., with their recently imported French Coachers, Certificate and Cerveau—the former a bay with grand substance and action; the latter a chestnut, rather more stylish, but with less substance and not quite so attractive action, but in the opinion of some a better show horse, but the judge at this show thought not. The third prize, and also the first for stallion and three of his get, went to Pimpano, owned by the Aylesford Agricultural Society.

FRENCH-CANADIAN.—There were some good indi-