

what; but it must have been a pretty difficult task to decide between the samples. I never could see the good of these prizes. Every body knows that quality of grain depends infinitely more on the soil than on the cultivation: in the south of England, we cannot grow oats like the Scotch, neither can the *plastic clay* of Kent produce a sample of malting barley.

I was disappointed at not seeing more tobacco. The roots were as fine as usual, that is, as fine as possible. The first prize for swedes was, very properly, given to roots of fine quality, though little more than half the size of those that received the second prize. The mangels and Kohl rabi were superb.

Grapes were well represented, though the season has been against them. The bunches shown by Mr. Graham, Ottawa, were the largest out-door grapes I ever saw. There would be no easy victory in beating Mr. Donnelly's 15 varieties, of which *Belinda*, a new white sort, *Herbert*, and *Hebermont* were the best flavoured. *Pocklington* very fine indeed, but alas, not ripe. Graves of Côte St. Antoine showed some gorgeous plums, gages, &c.; in pears the *Doyenne Bussock* (?) was beautiful to look at, and the apples were, of course, magnificent.

There was nothing very new in the implement yard. A large and very complicated *threshing machine* of Sawyer & Co's, Hamilton, was in motion, driven by an engine by Waterous. The attendant told me that it would take 12 horse power to work on long-strawed wheat! Some error in construction, I should think, as Clayton and Shuttleworth's 8 horse power Engine used to drive a finishing machine with elevator, threshing our long-strawed English wheat with a five and a half feet drum. I ought to know, as I had three sets of them. Wheat, in England, is often more than six feet high, and very much stouter in the straw than any here. Mr. Evans had, as usual, a very varied and well selected collection of implements. How many prizes he received I did not inquire, but no doubt their name was legion.

I thought it possible that there might have been a few Canadian cows shown, if only as extra stock. If Mrs. Whitfield, to whom I offer my congratulations, wishes to do a popular thing, I would counsel her to collect a small herd, say, four cows and a bull of the purest Canadian stock she can find, and show them next year by the side of the Jerseys and Kerries, their cousins. Is patriotism so dead here that no wealthy merchant will offer a prize for the encouragement of his poorer countrymen's homebreds?

It strikes me very forcibly that some of the exhibitors of stock misunderstand the condition of age. When it is said that animals are to date, as regards age, from the 1st of January, what is meant is, that a calf born on the 20th of March 1881 becomes a yearling on the 1st of January 1882, and a two year-old on the 1st of January 1883.

ARTHUR R. JENNER FUST.

Horses at the Exhibition of 1881.

Taken altogether, the show of horses this year was certainly very good; better than last year in my opinion; though in some classes there was a decided falling off, and I am sorry to say that in no class was this more evident than in the thoroughbred stallions. This year there were only four shown, and none of these appeared to me to be the sort of animal that I should chose to breed from, certainly not in the condition in which they were shown. The first and second prize horses are both good specimens of the *race horse* and are, I believe, as good as they look, but I certainly prefer "Terror", the second prize, to "One Dime." Does not the sporting owner of this fine horse think he is worth more than a "six penny" name? He has a better and handsomer head and neck, is not so upright on his pasterns, and, to my mind, looks more the gentleman than his rival. I was un-

fortunate in not seeing these horses out of their stables, so I can say nothing about their action. The horse to which the third prize was given is a *trotting* animal, and, I cannot keep thinking, was quite out of place in this class; and besides this, the pedigree which was attached to his stall did not seem to be what it ought to have been, for from what I could make out it was the pedigree of his sire, and not his. And though I have seen the well known "Tubman" look better, he certainly deserved to have been mentioned by the judges.

The *thoroughbred colts and fillies* were good, especially a filly with a decided "Tubman" look about her; there was also a fine yearling colt, though perhaps a little "leggy"; both of these, as also several others, hailing from the Messrs. Dawes' farm of Lachine. The brood mare and foals made a good show; one shown by the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec is a remarkably handsome, showy mare, and has a fine "Astronomer" colt at her foot. Let me here remark, with all due reference to the manager of this Department, that it is a great pity that the classes are not kept more separate; for among the thoroughbreds there were several Clydes! and although boards were put up and labelled "Thoroughbred, Clyde, Suffolk, &c., &c.", it did not in the least follow that you found the named animals under their proper headings (1).

The show of *Clydes* was really magnificent. The first prize animal would have held his own in any ring, and I am sure the judges must have had anything but an easy task in awarding the prizes; for when all were so good it must have been difficult to decide which should be first. One of these grand specimens of horse-flesh, I was told, weighed 1980 lbs.!! though to see him moving, one would hardly have believed it. Mr. Cochrane showed a fine three year old colt, but he did not appear to find favour with the judges. The *pairs of heavy draught horses* were very fine, especially a pair of grays, shown by the Sheddon Company, and a pair of bays, shown by Mr. Hickson; the way in which these two pairs were turned out was perfect. I wish I could say as much for the carriage horses, but these appeared to me to be merely trotting horses, and to my mind did not deserve any prize, as *carriage* horses, for they had no action, were not harnessed as carriage horses should be, and, to crown all, had tails almost, if not quite, touching the ground! But now we come to something more like the real thing, and this is a *pair of cobs* (a stallion and mare) imported and shown by the Hon. M. Cochrane of Compton, and they are worth taking a long journey to see, the mare is a perfect little beauty, and one which you would never tire of looking at; such a set of legs one seldom sees, grand quarters, head clean and well set on, a splendid shoulder, nice short back, and in fact, as near perfection as possible, and to see her moving about as quiet as a lamb was a treat. There was also a very handsome English pony shown by the same gentleman. The *jumping in the ring* was, as usual, very attractive to the public, but that is about all that can be said for it! One horse ridden by Mr. C. Alloway was a perfect fencer, and to see the way he got his hind legs under him proved him to be no novice at this business, and, having the man he had on his back, it was no wonder that he got over his jumps in a masterly style. Mr. Coghlin's chesnut has improved since last year, and had his rider only let him have his head more, and had the horse only had a sensible bit and bridoon on, instead of that inevitable (in this country) snaffle and tight martingale, he would have shown to better advantage. There were about a dozen horses in the ring at the same time, and out of this lot, I could only see two (Mr. Cochrane's and Mr. C. Alloway's) whose horses were turned out as they should be for riding. It is a pity that in judging both saddle and carriage horses more consideration is not given to the way in which horses are turned out, as is done at home. In the *farmers' horses* competition for jumping, Mr. Drummond's little grey had it pretty much his own way and really he jumped capitally. I cannot help, however, remarking upon the extraordinary conditions for jumping laid down in the programme, which were, that the heavy weight carrier was to jump 3 ft. 6 in., the light weight carrier 3 ft. 3 in., and the farmer's horse only 3 feet! Why there should be a difference in the weights to be jumped is quite a mystery; because a horse has to carry a heavy weight must he jump higher than one who has to carry a light weight, and are farmers' necks so fragile,

(1) Just the same with the cattle, all mixed up together, and no sooner had the eye got accustomed to the Devon, than it was dodged by a Shorthorn.

A. R. J. F.