

## THE YARMOUTH EXHIBITION.

The Exhibition of the Yarmouth County Agricultural Society for 1881, being the thirteenth Annual Exhibition, was held at the Rink and grounds adjoining, on Thursday and Friday, the 6th and 7th October.

A number of our citizens have taken pleasure and pride in belonging to the Society, and by their efforts in former years there has been a continuous growth and increased interest, establishing for the Society a reputation only second to that of the Provincial Exhibition.

It was hoped that during this year increased accommodation, with permanent sheds, would be provided, and other needed improvements made, so that our Exhibition would still continue to increase and our reputation be sustained, in order that all visitors would feel fully rewarded for their visit to Yarmouth.

We regret that our expectations have not been realized. Several things have happened during the last twelve months to interfere with the growth of the Society and the success of the exhibition. A backward spring, a wet summer and a cold fall, hindered to a great extent the growth of vegetables and grain. The season has not been good for ripening fruit, and the wet, cold and hailstorm the first part of the exhibition week, destroyed the bulk of the flowers, which would have helped to fill and beautify the Rink. Notwithstanding all these difficulties our exhibition was a good one. The exhibit of butter and cheese was the best ever had here, and, as affirmed by several independent witnesses, excelled that of the Dominion Exhibition held at Halifax the week previous.

The shows of roots and vegetables, as regards quality, were fully up to former years. Fruit exceeded the expectation of all, and, when we reflect that only a part of our fruit growers exhibited, that there are a large number of young orchards throughout the County just coming into bearing, and that there have been about \$4,000 worth of fruit trees sold in our County during the last year, we may reasonably look for much larger exhibits in future years, and in due time Yarmouth County may deem it expedient to own and have a steamer to transport our fruit to the English market.

The domestic department seemed fully up to former years, and many of the articles show industry and skill. Some new lines of exhibits, as the piece of table linen made from home made flax, by Jacob Flint, Esq., of Plymouth; the wool shawl by Mrs. Moses S. Porter; and the linen stockings, made from home raised flax, by Mrs. Aymar, of Digby, prove to us that the wives of our farmers are thinkers as well as workers, and fully capable of developing new industries,

which help to make them more independent, and beautify their homes.

A new class of exhibits was shown, viz., Fertilizers. This, above all others, ought to interest the Society and every farmer. The cheapest producing power is what Yarmouth County needs; our land, naturally not very strong, is soon exhausted by cropping; the best and cheapest fertilizer is what we want. Hundreds of tons of it ought to be used each year. Three kinds were exhibited, the ground bone by Wm. Churchill, a prepared fish fertilizer, by G. B. Oakes, of Digby, and a fish fertilizer, manufactured by Thomas Robertson, Esq., of Barrington, without doubt all good.

Another exhibit, important to inhabitants of a country as cold as ours, was a hot air furnace, invented and patented by James Byrne, of Milton.

A very fine carriage, manufactured by Mr. Joseph McGill, of Shelburne, which arrived too late for competition, was much admired.

There were several other exhibits, which added to the interest and success of the exhibition; but as the greater part of these are referred to particularly in the reports of the several Committees, it is not necessary that I enlarge.

Cash received for entrance fees.....	\$475 05
Number of exhibitors.....	106
Number of entries.....	1030
Number of premiums awarded.....	660
Amount of premiums about.....	\$500

## CLASS 1.—HORSES.

In this class your Committee have to report the smallest exhibit that has been for a number of years. Under a large number of headships, we find no entries, and for which we cannot account. It seems quite evident, judging from the show of horses for the past year or two, that the interest in this branch of stock raising is becoming less and less. In stallions, carriage horses, matched carriage horses and draught horses of all kinds, there were no entries whatever. Brood mares, there are three entries, two of which are very creditable, but only one of them with a colt by her side.

Saddle horses, one entry, no competition, but as the horse was worthy he took a first prize. In geldings there were but two entries, both taking prizes. In three year old colts there were but two entries, one of which is above mediocrity and deserving particular attention as having taken first prize from a suckling colt at almost every exhibition. The other was also fine. Both are of the Lee Stock.

In two year old colts, there are three entries, all of them very good in appearance. In one year old colts only two entries and neither of them particularly fine.

In suckling colts there is only one entry, a fine young colt, one month and seventeen days old, but a very nice colt in appearance, got by Colonel Lang.

We do not know that we have anything to offer that would have a tendency to induce persons engaged in this branch of stock raising to take more interest in the matter and to bring forward their stock at our

annual fairs, in order to make these occasions more creditable and praiseworthy.

## SHORT HORSES, THOROUGH BRED AND GRADES.

The Committee on this class say that they see but little improvement on previous years, and would recommend that exhibitors should be more particular in placing stock in their proper places.

## CLASS 2.—NO. 3.—JERSEYS OR ALDERNEYS, THOROUGH BRED AND REGISTERED.

In handing in their books, the Committee of Judges on Jerseys and Devons beg to report that they find the exhibit very good. In thorough-breds, Mr. C. E. Brown justly claims first place for bull and cow 3 years old and upwards, also for yearling heifer, the specimens he exhibits being animals of rare merit. The rest of the pure bred Jerseys are certainly very good and reflect credit upon the owners. The grades are excellent and give good evidence that the improvement of stock has been well looked after in this enterprising county. With reference to Devons, the exhibit is small, but good in quality. This breed of cattle has not met with the same reception in Nova Scotia as have other breeds, which accounts for the small number shown. One very noticeable feature is the first-rate condition of the stock generally.

*En passant*, the Committee beg to say that they find a very handsome Guernsey bull on the grounds, and though the prize list makes no provision for this breed, they cannot pass over this bull without suggesting that a special prize be awarded him, as he is in every way worthy of it. He has been imported at considerable expense to the owner, and the Committee, recognizing the value of this breed, regard him as a good addition to the better stock of the county.

The Committee beg leave also to make another suggestion, the observance of which would greatly help the judges in the discharge of their duties. If the Committee of Management would rope off a certain space in the centre of the grounds, and the owners or attendants would be prompt in placing their animals within this allotted space as soon as their class and section were announced it would save the judges much unnecessary hindrance, besides the confusion consequent upon judging stock where different sections are intermingled.

## CLASS 2.—NO. 5.—OXEN AND STEERS.

The additional number of entries and the marked improvement in the different classes of animals entered, with the evident care taken of them, show the general opinion of the capabilities of this section of the Province for stock raising and grazing. The improvement in young cattle is very noticeable. There seems to be a decline in the Devon interest in favor of Ayrshire, perhaps for the reason that the latter are better suited for all the purposes of the farmer, though it is generally conceded that the snugly built well matched Devons are equalled as working oxen by no other breed, a conclusion borne out fully by the appearance of many fine teams descended from the Society's purchase of 1868.

## CLASS 3.—SHEEP AND SWINE.

Your Committee on sheep and swine report as follows:—The number of entries of sheep is not large, but some of the animals