

The Ontario Provincial Winter Fair.

Bigger and better than had been was the Winter Fair at Guelph, December 9th to 14th. The weather was favorable; the people came in crowds; the livestock features showed more uniform excellence than at any former meeting here; the judging was well and satisfactorily done; the lectures and discussions were of a high order of practical merit; the management of the show, under the capable generalship of Secretary Westervelt and his efficient staff, was ideal, and the visitors were delighted with what they saw and heard. The only drawback in connection with the whole event was the usual one of lack of building space to accommodate the various features of the show, and to give visitors the opportunity of seeing and hearing to best advantage. This lack, it is pleasing to note, is likely, in the not distant future, to be provided for, and the prospect for a still greater and still more useful Winter Fair in the Royal City is bright with promise.

Attendance figures are difficult to obtain, because a large proportion of the visitors enter on Farmers' Institute passes, which admit the holder as often as he desires throughout the show. There were 600 more of these passes issued this year than last. As to money receipts, the total to Thursday evening was slightly behind 1906, but this was far more than made up on Friday morning, when the largest Friday audience in the history of the show assembled to hear and witness Mr. D. Ward King's lecture and demonstration on the breaking of a colt. All told, it is officially calculated that there were 3,000 more admissions than last year.

THE CATTLE CLASSES.

The entries in the cattle classes, though perhaps somewhat less numerous than last year, showed a greater uniformity of approved type throughout, and though the best may not in some sections have been equal to the winners in former years, yet there were more good ones than usual, especially in the younger sections, which are the most likely to be carried over for another year, and which, if kept going on well, should make the showing for next year's event a record one. What is most urgently needed, in order to the best success of the show in the cattle department—and, indeed, in all sections—is more money, in order that the prizes offered may be sufficiently attractive to induce more breeders and feeders to prepare for the competition. To this end, it is up to the breed associations and the Government to contribute more liberally; the management should eliminate the cow classes, which are made up largely of breeding stock and worn-out matrons, which should have no place in such a show, and the money used to provide more attractive prizes for young animals, and for carload lots of commercial cattle.

Reviewing the cattle classes in the order of the catalogue, which were capably judged by Messrs. Robert Miller, Stouffville, and James Smith, Rockland, Ont., with John T. Gibson as referee, it may be said that the exhibit of pure-bred Shorthorns was an exceedingly creditable one, the sections for young things being admirably filled. In two-year-old steers of this class, the first award went to a smooth, well-fleshed red entry of fine type, shown by J. & D. J. Campbell, Woodville; the second place being given to a useful roan, not in high condition, exhibited by John Barr, of Blyth. The yearling section brought out a quartette of high-class animals, in which was included the grand champion of the show, a white steer, of ideal type, character, quality and smoothness, named Allison, shown by John Brown & Sons, Galt, sired by Royal Stewart 46037; the second and third ribbons going to excellent entries, shown by W. R. Elliot & Sons, Guelph, and Alfred Barron, Speedside, both by sons of Imp. Royal Sailor. In a capital class of steers under a year old, W. R. Elliot & Sons came in first with a blocky, low-set, thick-fleshed youngster, White Hero, sired by Scottish Hero (imp.); Alex. McKinnon, Coningsby, being second with Crimson Rambler, a typical roan, of fine promise, though not in high condition, and John Currie, Eramosa, with a soggy roan, was third. The class for cows, three years or over, was filled with better individual entries than usual, the four animals exhibited being all comparatively younger for the class than in former years, of uniformly excellent type, and having the appearance of being barren. The first winner, the richly-bred red, Lady Hampton, by Merry Hampton, shown by John Brown & Sons, is a model of the breed, while a very close second was the stylish, smooth and well-finished roan, Queen Jewel, by Red Duke (imp.), shown by Israel Groff, Elmhurst.

In an extra good trio of two-year-old heifers, Flora 90th, the grand champion female of the breed at Toronto last fall, and winner of second award in a great class at Chicago the first week in this month, shown by Geo. Amos & Son, Mo'fat, created a sensation by her grand appearance, and was, of course, a clean first. It is questionable, indeed, if, taken all in all, she has ever been equalled as a representative of the breed in this country, and she is certainly a distinct credit to her skillful and enterprising breeders. Brown & Sons, Galt, were second, with a capital roan, also bred by Messrs. Amos, and got by the same sire as Flora 90th, namely, Imp. Old Lancaster. John Barr, of Blyth, was third with a good heifer.

G. & W. Parkinson, Eramosa, led in the yearling

heifer section with Hannah, a very perfect butcher's beast, smooth, thick and well finished; Amos & Son being second with Lady Myrie, a mossy-coated roan, another daughter of Old Lancaster.

Herefords and Aberdeen-Angus, classed together here—steers and heifers competing together—were not strong in either numbers or quality; the first award in two-year-olds going to the well-fleshed Angus heifer, Elm Park Keepsake, shown by James Bowman, Guelph, who was also first in yearlings and in the under a year sections, with typical Aberdeen-Angus entries; John A. Govenlock, of Forest, being second in the last two sections named; Walter Hall, Washington, winning in the cow class with the uncommonly thick-fleshed cow, Newtona 5th, weighing nearly 1,900 lbs.

Galloways and Devons, classed together, made a smaller entry than usual, the former being shown in limited entries by D. McCrae, Guelph, and the latter by C. C. Rudd, Eden Mills, the majority of first prizes going to the Galloways.

Grades and Crosses were, as usual, by far the largest classes, and the most interesting feature of the cattle department, a large majority of the entries being Shorthorn grades, while the Angus and Hereford grades made the competition keen in some cases, being more strongly represented than usual, and their standing distinctly encouraging to the friends of those breeds to prepare more animals for this show.

In two-year-old steers, the massive, strong-backed red, Clinker, shown by Jas. Leask, Greenbank, breeder and exhibitor of the International grand champion this year, was a clean first, followed by a right good roan, shown by J. & D. J. Campbell, Woodville.

In the yearling section one of the best things in the show, the red Ike, shown by Jos. Stone, Saintfield, was a clean winner; the same exhibitor being second, and John Barr third.

In steers under a year, Kyle Bros., Avr., had a popular winner in the charming roan, Chancellor's Stamp, by Imp. Barton Chancellor. Here is one of the most promising propositions for future honors seen out this



Jean Armour 15591.

Ayrshire cow. Winner of first award in her class, and second highest producer against all breeds competing in the two days' milking test, at the Ontario Winter Fair, Guelph, December, 1907 (114.26 lbs. milk, testing 3.8 per cent. fat). Owned by Geo. Rice, Tillsonburg, Ont.

year—a model of symmetry, character and quality, delighting to the eye of a connoisseur. Jos. Stone had an extra good roan calf, that, by the vote of the jury, secured second place, over the capital entry of John Lowe, of Elora, a grade Aberdeen-Angus, black but comely, one of the smoothest and best-fleshed young things ever seen at Guelph or elsewhere, one which might have gone higher in his class with no injustice, and which, if kept going on, will doubtless make it interesting to all comers next year.

In the section for yearling heifers, a remarkably fine red heifer was forward, owned by Peter Stewart, Everton, practically perfect in conformation, quality and finish; her silken-coated skin packed full of prime flesh, a model butcher's beast, and a clean first in her class. The champion of the class was Jos. Stone's first-prize yearling steer, Ike; the grand champion over all being, as before stated, John Brown & Sons' white, pure-bred yearling steer, Allison.

The competition for the prizes for the best three export steers proved one of the most interesting classes in the cattle department, the contest being closer than usual and the cattle of a better class. The first award went to John Brown & Sons, for a trio, consisting of one Hereford grade and two Shorthorn grades; the second to Jas. Leask, for three Shorthorns, and third to Brown & Sons, for three blacks, two of which were Angus grades and one a Galloway grade, the last lot being favorites with many of the exhibitors. It would be well if this Province produced many more of the class of cattle seen in this competition.

SHEEP.

The sheep classes were well filled at Guelph with high-class animals of all the principal breeds, most of the Canadian winners in the fat-stock classes at the International being forward, together with a considerable number of others fresh from their homes. The Long-wooled breeds were especially well represented by strong exhibits, while the general display was well up to high-water mark in point of quality. The Long-wooled breeds were judged by T. Hardy Shore, Guelph; the Oxfords by Professor Arkell, Macdonald College; the Shropshires by J. C. Duncan, Lewiston, N.Y.; the Southdowns by W. H. Beattie, Wilton Grove.

In the Cotswold class the principal exhibitors were Rawlings & Bailey, Forest; John Sockett, Rockwood, and E. Brien & Son, Ridgetown. In the section for single ewes under one year the competition was very strong, all the entries being full of character and quality, the first and third awards going to Rawlings & Bailey, and second to Sockett. It is seldom that so many good ones are seen together, all being home-bred, as required by the rules, showing that Canada is singularly well adapted for sheep-raising. The section for three ewe lambs was equally well filled, and the prizes went in the same order as in the single showing. For yearling wether, Rawlings & Bailey were again first, Brien & Son second and third, while the last-named exhibitors were first for wether under a year, and first and second for three wethers under a year. The champion wether of the class was Rawlings & Bailey's first-prize yearling.

Lincolns made a strong showing in the hands of J. T. Gibson, Denfield; J. H. Patrick, Ilderton, and L. Parkinson, Eramosa; Gibson winning first in single ewe lambs and for the best three ewe lambs, and first and championship for a yearling wether of extra good type and quality. Parkinson was first for single wether lamb and first and second for the best three of same age; and Patrick was second in four out of the five sections.

Leicesters made a good showing in the entries of John Kelly, Shakespeare, A. & W. Whitelaw, Guelph; G. & W. Parkinson, Eramosa; Hastings Bros., Crossville; Oliver Turnbull, Walton, and John S. Cowan, Donegal; Kelly winning the championship with a model yearling wether, the International champion, firmly fleshed and finished to the King's taste. Whitelaw being second in that section. Oliver was first for wether under a year, and for three of the same age; Parkinson being second for single wether lamb, and Hastings Bros. second for three of that class. Whitelaw's were first for single ewe under a year, and Turnbull second. Cowan won for the best three ewe lambs; Turnbull being second, and Kelly third in each case for ewe lambs.

Oxfords were very strongly shown by R. J. Hine, Dutton, W. E. Wright, Guelph; J. W. Lee & Sons, Simcoe; A. Stevenson, Atwood; J. A. Cerswell, Bond Head, and Alex. Stewart, Living Springs; Lee & Sons winning in ewe lambs single and for three; Stevenson being second in the single-ewe section, and Hine third in both. Wright was first for yearling wether, and also won the championship with the same sheep—an extra good one, well brought out. Cerswell was first for three wethers under a year, Wright second, and Stevenson third.

Shropshires made a very nice showing in limited numbers, but well up in quality, the exhibitors being J. & D. J. Campbell, Woodville; W. E. Wright, Guelph; Abram Rudell, Hespeler. Campbell won all three first prizes for ewes under a year, and first for three of same age, Rudell being second for three. In yearling wethers, in a still tussle for supremacy between Campbell and Wright, the latter won out, and later secured the championship of the class for the same sheep—a grand specimen of the breed, full of quality and well brought out. For wether under a year, and for three of same age, Campbell won first, Wright coming second in the latter class, and Rudell third.

Southdowns made a capital showing of entries from the flocks of Sir Geo. Drummond, Braconsfield, Que.; Robt. McEwen, Byron; Teifer Bros., Paris, and Geo. Baker, Simcoe. McEwen was first for single ewe lamb and second for three; Baker winning in the latter case, while Teifer Bros. were second for ewe lamb and third for three. In the yearling wether section the Drummond brothers won the last three awards with the Inter-