

The Ontario Provincial Fair.

The annual show of cattle, sheep, swine and poultry, and the milking trials of dairy cows, held under the auspices of the Ontario Winter Fair Association, in the City of Guelph, Dec. 11th to 14th, was admittedly a decided success in most particulars. The management on the part of the officers was admirable, considering that the building was yet in an unfinished state, and the judging on the whole was creditable, though in some instances, as usual, there was cause for criticism. The new building erected on the market square, as the permanent home of the show, is a credit to the enterprise of the people of the Royal City. For convenience of location, in the interest of exhibitors and visitors, it is for the present all that could reasonably be desired, the only fear being that, large and commodious as is the new building, if the show continues to grow, as it is likely to do, both in entries of stock and attendance of visitors, more room will yet be required for its accommodation. To our mind, the best way to avoid that necessity will be to gradually make the exhibition what was originally intended, strictly a fat-stock show, eliminating the breeding and old cow classes, and by the offer of tempting prizes for steers, wethers and barrows, to encourage the preparation and exhibition of more high-class specimens of these of ideal type, and thus to secure for the show the reputation of being a model one in which quality rather than quantity shall be the distinguishing feature. While the best animals in nearly every section in the late show were first-class, and such as would do credit to any country, there were, it must be admitted, some in the cattle classes at least which were below the standard and should have no place in a show where uniformity of excellence in type and quality is the aim.

While in respect of numbers, as compared with the Chicago event of the previous week, the Canadian show looks circumscribed, and in that regard calls for a less lavish expenditure of superlative adjectives than has been indulged in by our contemporaries of the Chicago press in the attempted description of their show, it must be satisfactory to Canadian breeders and feeders to know that when it comes to a question of quality and finish of the best individual animals in cattle, sheep and hogs, Canada suffers not one jot in the comparison, but measures fully up to if not beyond the standard of the champions of the great Western show which has been so elaborately eulogized. The great want of this country is more of the same sort as the best we have, and that lack can only be removed by a more general effort on the part of the breeders and the farmers generally to produce and mature by generous feeding and care a better class of stock.

CATTLE.

The number of entries of cattle in the catalogue totalled 120, but some of these being duplicates, owing to being entered in more than one class, and a few being absentees, the actual exhibits probably numbered about one hundred head. The great majority of these were Shorthorns and grade Shorthorns, as has commonly been the case at former shows of the kind in Canada. The few Herefords, Aberdeen-Angus and Galloway cattle shown were of a good sort, and only required more feeding to bring them up to the mark of finished beefs. The judges of cattle were John T. Gibson, Danfield, and Robt. Miller, Stouffville.

Shorthorns.—A separate class was assigned to pure-bred Shorthorns, one-half the prize money being granted by the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association. The entries in steers in this class were limited to very few, and there is room for more competition, which we hope to see greatly enlarged in the coming years.

In the section for steers two years old and under three, J. Fried & Sons, Roseville, supplied the winner in a substantial and well-finished son of Lord Willison, by imp. Indian Chief.

The yearling section furnished the best number in the Shorthorn class, in Israel Groff's white steer, named Crimson Robe, son of Golden Robe = 20300 =, and of Crimson Gem = 20879 =, a youngster of fine character and quality, lengthy, level and well proportioned, with a strong loin, big quarters and thighs, a full twist, smoothly-laid shoulders, a thickly-fleshed back and fine handling quality of skin and hair. He was easily the champion of the Shorthorn class, although there were some other really good entries in it. The second prize in this section went to Hermit, a useful steer shown by Peter Stewart, Everton.

A strong class of five entries of cows three years and over was headed by Matchless of Elmhurst 18th, shown by W. J. Biggins, Clinton, a smooth, level, well-furnished red daughter of imp. Royal Don = 17105 =. Second place was given to Dorothy Fox, exhibited by Daniel Talbot, Everton. She was sired by War Eagle, by imp. Warrior. Third place was assigned to Crimson Maid, by Recruiter, by imp. Hopeful, exhibited by John Campbell, Woodville.

Fried & Sons had the winner in two-year-old heifers in a handsome and smooth red daughter of Lord Willison; and Harry Smith, Hay, supplied a popular winner in the section for heifers under two years, in the white twin, Barmid, by Abbotsford, a thick, blocky heifer of excellent quality. Barmid also won the sweepstakes for best Shorthorn cow or heifer in the show.

Herefords and Polled Angus were grouped together, and the winner for best steer or heifer two and over three years was the Hereford heifer, Duchess of Moreton 22nd, shown by the F. W. Stone Co., Guelph. James Bowman supplied the second winner, an Aberdeen-Angus, named Elm Park Bell 3rd, both being of good quality. The Stone Company had a choice winner in the yearling class in their Graceful 96th, a model of the breed, of fine type and quality. Bowman's tidy polled steer, Elm Park Lad, made an excellent second, and the same exhibitor had a good one for third place in Bessie Blooming.

In the section under a year, Samuel Young, Binkham, had a clear winner in Springside Beauty; the Stone Co. second with Peach 36th; and Bowman third with Kyma 10th. A. McDougall, Guelph, won fourth prize with Rosie Bright.

In the class for cow or heifer three years and over, Bowman's Aberdeen-Angus cow, Kyma 6th, was a popular first, and the same exhibitor had the third winner in Lass of Tweedhill; second going to the Stone Stock Co.'s Hereford, May Day 3rd.

Galloways and Devons were classed together, and the exhibitors were D. McCrae, Guelph, and T. Lloyd-Jones & Son, Burford, with Galloways, and W. J. Rudd, Eden Mills, with Devons, the latter winning second and third with smooth steers in the two-year-old class, not highly fitted; McCrae winning first with Rainee 13th, a typical Galloway heifer of fine quality. The same exhibitor had first and second winners in each of the other three sections of the class, with excellent specimens, the first-prize cow, Semaramis 29th, being especially level and full of quality.

Grades and Crosses.—It was in this class that the real plums of the cattle show were mainly found, several of the chief winners being virtually if not actually pure-bred Shorthorns, though ineligible to the Record, while most of the entries were excellent, and it would be well for Canada if we had many more like them. In the section for grade steers two years and under three, there were thirteen entries, nine of which fled an appearance, and an outstanding winner was found in the red "Clinker," calved in November, 1897; sired by Moneyfuffel Lad, shown by James Leask, Greenbank, and weighing 1,700 lbs. This steer was no stranger to fat-stock shows, having been exhibited annually since he was a calf, and so far as we remember, being unbeaten in his class. He is the model steer from the butcher's standpoint, carrying an extra wealth of meat on his back where the highest-priced cuts are found, his ribs being well sprung from the spine and thickly packed with high-class flesh, as are also his crops, loins and quarters. He is free from any indications of paunchiness, and presents the appearance of one likely to kill out with a low percentage of offal. Taken all in all, we doubt if a better of his age has ever been shown in Canada, and we are by no means persuaded that his equal in completeness of conformation and quality combined was seen at the Chicago Exposition. A capital second was found in Fried's Look Out, by Lord Willison, a red steer of fine character and type. The third ribbon went to a massive, deep-ribbed, fast-feeding farmer's steer, shown by R. J. Robinson, Ailsa Craig, that one could not but admire, though Stewart's red roan, Candidate, by McTurk, a smoother and better-backed beast, placed fourth, might well have stood a notch higher, and would have been in type more in line with the first and second winners. Leask had in his red Rock, by the same sire as Clinker, a clear winner in the yearling class, owing to his being well fitted more than to his having any special advantage in form or quality over his competitors. Andrew Richardson, Peepabun, had in his second-prize steer, Iroquois, by Lord Stanley 5th, a rich roan of fine character; while J. H. Dingle, Hamilton, showed Roger Stanley, sired by Duncan Stanley, that was a worthy third; and General White, a good one shown by John Campbell, Woodville, and sired by a son of Indian Chief, was placed fourth.

Jumbo, a handsome roan shown by A. Hales, Guelph, was the first-prize steer under a year. He has excellent form and quality, and shows good breeding as well as judicious feeding. Richardson's Bobs, by Lord Stanley 5th, a rich roan, made a fine show, and secured second prize; Leask's Cronje, by Royal Banner, being placed third; and Geo. Clayton's Tom, a handsome roan by Gloster, another of the sons of Indian Chief, filled fourth place creditably.

Jas. Bowman's Guelph Lass, a big, smooth, level cross-bred cow from Aberdeen-Angus sire and Shorthorn dam, was a popular winner in the class for cows over three years, though not in high condition, but her smoothness and levelness carried her to the front. Wm. Argo, Eden Mills, with a big fleshy cow, came in second; John Brown, Galt, third; and Jas. Leask fourth. The championship winner of the class was found in the section for heifers two years old and under three, in James Leask's great heifer, Flo, by Moneyfuffel Lad. She was easily first in her class, and was adjudged even a better beast than her stable chum, Clinker, being awarded the grand sweepstakes silver cup donated by Mr. Thos. Holliday, Guelph, for the best animal, any age or breed, in the cattle department of the show. She is certainly a marvellous heifer, combining quality, breed character and perfection of conformation in the highest degree. She is massive without a suspicion of coarseness, wonderful in the width of her crops and depth and spring of ribs, smooth and level in all her parts, standing on short

legs, and weighing close to 1,800 lbs. at a few days under three years of age. She is one among ten thousand, and it is doubtful whether she could have been downed by any female of any age in the breeding classes shown this year in all of America. She is certainly a high tribute to her great sire, Moneyfuffel Lad, three times a champion of Canada's greatest show, and is an evidence that the best bulls are not too good to get feeders for the fat-stock shows, an evidence too that the offspring of a matured sire are liable to prove his best, since though used for four seasons in one herd, and siring winners for years in the Provincial fat-stock shows, his last are clearly the best of the get of this grand bull. Second prize in the two-year-old section went to Leask's Bess, another superior daughter of Moneyfuffel Lad; third to James Scott, Aberfoyle; fourth to Abram Ruddell, Hespeler. In heifers under two years, Fried & Sons won first, Leask second, and R. Dawson, Guelph, third. The silver cup donated by the Bell Organ & Piano Co., of Guelph, for the best pair of fat animals of any age or breed, was won by Mr. Leask's Clinker and Flo. The sweepstakes for best animal, any age or breed, was won by Leask's two-year-old grade Shorthorn heifer, Flo.

Dressed Carcass Competition.—The special prizes for dressed carcasses in the Shorthorn class went first to Fried & Sons' first-prize two-year-old steer, Wild Bill; second to Biggins' Matchless of Elmhurst, first-prize cow; third to Fairbairn's Maid of the Mist. In the Hereford and Polled Angus class, first to James Bowman's Angus. In the Galloway and Devon class, first to McCrae's Galloway cow, Semaramis 28th; second to Rudd's Devon steer. The grand sweepstakes prize for best dressed carcass, any breed, went to J. Fried & Sons, Roseville, for the pure-bred Shorthorn two-year-old steer, Wild Bill, winner of first prize in the two-year-old class alive, where he had no competitors. Grades and cross-breeds were not allowed to compete in the carcass contest for the grand championship, a ruling which seems to be narrow and unfair. In such a class the competition should be open to all, so that the best may have a chance to win.

SWINE.

The classes for swine of the various breeds were in nearly all instances well filled, and generally with hogs of a good stamp, even when judged by a reasonably exacting bacon-type standard. So noticeable, indeed, is this feature that the unprejudiced observer is disposed to congratulate the breeders and exhibitors of hogs that are not considered as generally ranking as baconers on the decided improvement that has been made by judicious selection and intelligent feeding in bringing their hogs steadily nearer to the approved type, and it is not too much to claim that, considering the material they had to work with, quite as much improvement has been made in these classes as in any. Holding this opinion, we have but very limited sympathy with the packers who, by their deliverances, assume the right to boom certain breeds, to boycott others, and to tender advice and instruction upon a subject on which, judging from the numerous discrepancies in their opinions and judgment, it is clear they are themselves considerably at sea. For our own part, we are as strongly as ever of the opinion that the production of hogs conforming to the ideal bacon type is less a question of breeds than of careful selection, judicious mating, and intelligent management and feeding.

Berkshires were shown in fairly good numbers, and of excellent quality and character, by George Green, Fairview; Snell & Lyons, Snelgrove; Durham & Cavan, East Toronto; James A. Russell, Precious Corners; and Robt. Agnew & Son, Acton.

In barrows six and under nine months old, Green had the first and third prize winners, and Durham & Cavan the second. These were a good class, showing fine quality.

In barrows under six months, Green was first and second, and the Snelgrove entry third and fourth, all being typical animals.

For sow under 15 months and over nine, Snell & Lyons had a very captivating first in Lady Shields, a model of the approved type; Green winning second and third with Artful Belle and Golden Drop, of excellent stamp and quality.

In the section for sows six and under nine months, Green was first with Model Queen, a lengthy, well-balanced sow of excellent type. Snell & Lyons had in Miss Prim and The Duchess capital entries of similar stamp, large, lengthy and well fleshed, and which were placed second and third.

In sows under six months, the Snelgrove herd had the first and second winners in Pleasant Maid and Lady Maid, sisters, sired by Col. Brant, and of great length and strength of back and bone, and fine breed type. The third prize went to Russell, for Black Polly, a good sort, sired by Cervera.

For three pigs, the offspring of one sow, bred by the exhibitor, first went to Snell & Lyons, for Morning Lily, the Duchess and Morning Maid, and second to Green, for Model Queen, Black Sam and Black Jack.

In the sweepstakes contest for the best Berkshire any age, the two acting judges, R. H. Harding and Wm. Jones, differed, one voting for Snell & Lyons' Lady Shields, first-prize sow under fifteen months, the other for Green's Model Queen, first-prize sow under nine months, and Major G. B. Hood being called as referee, decided in favor of Mr. Green's entry.

In the contest for two best export bacon hogs, Berkshire, the judges, who were packers, awarded