

**Lincoln Sheep, the Property of Gibson & Walker.**

The Lincolns, an illustration of which adorns our first page, were imported by Messrs. Gibson & Walker. Mr. John T. Gibson, of Denfield, Ont., is an experienced English farmer, and has had a long experience as breeder and manager of live stock. He is considered one of the best judges of cattle, sheep and swine, and is frequently called on to act as single judge at the most important Canadian shows. Last year he was unanimously chosen as expert judge of long wools by the Provincial Fat Stock Club, and gave such good satisfaction that he was again chosen to act in the same capacity this year. In 1860 he emigrated to Canada, but again returned to England. He has had much experience as a breeder of Lincoln sheep both in Canada and the United States. He visited England in 1891, inspecting the flocks of several Lincoln breeders, and selected a draft of very choice specimens from those owned by H. Dudding, which Mr. Gibson considers the largest and best of these sheep in England. The ram he selected to head their flock was, he thought, the best he could procure; in fact, he experienced considerable difficulty in getting his owner to put a price on him. Mr. Gibson also chose what he considered were the best from among a flock of 700 breeding ewes. A number of ewes selected were in lamb by a ram for which Mr. Dudding paid \$525, the highest price paid in 1890 for a Lincoln ram. The balance of the ewes bought were in lamb to a very large upstanding sheep, which has since won first prize at the Royal Show of England. Mr. Gibson now has a number of lambs and yearlings got by this ram and out of imported ewes.

Mr. Graham Walker, of Ilderton, Mr. Gibson's partner, is well versed in all that pertains to practical sheep husbandry. His family for three generations have been noted and successful sheep owners. In 1810 their flock was established. The first direct importation from England, was made in 1853, and comprised one ram and seven ewes. Since that date stock rams have been imported every two or three years. In 1887 the importation consisted of two rams and four ewes. In 1880 further additions were made from England. Ever since the foundation of the flock it has been very successful in the show ring. In 1891 representatives from this flock won a large share of the prizes offered to this class at the Toronto Industrial and Western Fair. At the latter they carried off the bronze medal for best flock any breed. On September 11th, 1891, the show flock was weighed. A yearling ram tipped the beam at 324 pounds, a ram lamb 168 pounds, a breeding ewe 323 pounds, a yearling ewe 276 pounds, and a ewe lamb 154 pounds. A fine flock is kept on the farm of each of the members of the firm. In 1892 a number of exceedingly fine animals of each sex were imported. Last fall, as in previous years, these gentlemen were most successful exhibitors.

Mr. Graham Walker has recently returned from England, bringing with him seventy shearing ewes and three rams, which arrived at the farms in nice condition. Most of them are thin in flesh, owing to the scarcity of food in England, caused by the dry spring following a sharp winter. The animals of this importation were selected from the flocks of Mr. H. Dudding and others, and, as on previous occasions, have size and quality with grand coats of long lustrous wool. The following are the weights of some of their sheep shorn soon after April 1st and weighed soon after May 1st, 1893: Two-shear ram, 356 pounds; two shear ewe 275 pounds; her lambs, two months old, 75 pounds; one-shear ram, 304 pounds; one-shear ewe 260 pounds. As the foundation of this flock was bred by Mr. Dudding, it will be of interest to our readers to know that sheep bred and owned by this gentleman took three out of a possible of four first prizes awarded Lincolns at the late Royal Show of England. The prizes won were first on aged ram, first on shearing ewes, first on ram lamb.

The ram which won in the aged class this year won first as a yearling last year, was one of a pen of five ram lambs, 1891, winning first, and has never been beaten. These were purchased by Messrs. Gibson and Walker, also a three-year-old and a pair of two-year-old ewes. These won first as yearlings at the English Royal Show, and they were never beaten. In the recent importations are six sheep, each of which has won a first prize at the Royal Agricultural Society's Show.

Last April a member of our staff inspected Mr. Gibson's flock, and was highly pleased with the animals. They were uniformly large, of good quality and well-wooled. The flock averages six-teen pounds per sheep of unwashed but clean wool.

of excellent quality Riby Conqueror, the ram illustrated, the sire of the lambs and of some of the yearlings now on the farms, is a large, massive, thick-fleshed, showy sheep, robust and very active; in show condition would weigh over 400 pounds. When two years old his fleece weighed 26 pounds; in quality it is even, fine and lustrous. The two ewes in the illustrations are similar in quality and breeding, being descended from some of Mr. Dudding's show winners, and are themselves also successful prize takers; the lambs and yearlings, male and female, in this flock are of equal merit.

Mr. Gibson also owns a fine herd of Shorthorns; his stock bull has been chosen by the Government to go to Chicago. At a later date we will give our readers full particulars concerning this herd.

**Canada at the World's Fair, Chicago.**

The Province of Ontario has every reason to felicitate itself on the splendid showing it has made among the nations of the world at the Columbian Exhibition. The Government started in right by selecting as Commissioner Mr. Nicholas Awrey, M. P. P. for South Wentworth, who was early on the ground, sized up the situation, and paved the way for future success. He selected as his first lieutenant Mr. Adam Armstrong, formerly of Toronto, but now of Chicago, and a good choice it was. The arrangement between the Dominion and Ontario provided that the latter should look after natural products and educational matters, while the Dominion exhibits should include manufactured articles. The departments thus allotted to the premier province were cereals, vegetables, fruit, plants, minerals, education, ethnology, natural history, live stock, poultry, honey and dairy test. The collection of the articles to make up the exhibits was no light task. Mr. Awrey infused his own enthusiasm into his subordinates, and the work was well done at surprisingly small cost by many willing hands. It has been a subject of general remark that the position allotted to Canada in all the building is especially good, and everywhere Ontario has the choicest corner, as is her right from wealth and population and every other consideration. The other provinces, sheltering themselves under the wing of the Dominion, made slow progress, but such energy was shown by the Ontario officials that on the first of May, when the fair was formally opened, almost everything was ready for inspection. No one who had not the opportunity of watching the formation processes of the exhibition could form the slightest idea of how provokingly slow everything was at first, and for a month after the opening. Mechanics of all kinds were scarce, the wages high and the hours short, and the work of installation was accomplished with the greatest difficulty. Even at present writing, when two months have elapsed since President Cleveland pressed the button and officially opened the fair, quite a number of sections are in an unfinished condition.

The display made by Ontario in every department has been a source of wonderment to the world at large, and to none more than the people of the United States, who, though they might be supposed to be better posted than Europeans, had the most erroneous ideas of the extent and resources of our country. On all hands we received the most flattering testimonials, leading officials expressing their admiration in the highest terms, while the registers, which were opened in each court, were soon filled with favorable comments. A very noticeable feature was the thoroughness with which Ontario has done its work. There was no filling up of an enormous quantity of stuff, but a careful selection had been made, and while many states and countries exceeded us in space occupied, there was no more tasteful arrangement nor variety so infinite. It is, of course, too early to speak definitely as to the awards, but I have the utmost confidence that Ontario will rank among the highest when the judges give in their reports, and that the result obtained in cheese will be duplicated wherever we come in competition with other exhibitors.

I would like to say something about the exhibition as a whole, but the subject is altogether too vast to deal with in one or a dozen letters, for that matter, and the general details have been pretty well covered by the daily press. The White City is a marvel, and its beauty and immensity grow on one with every day of residence. Enclosed within the grounds are over 700 acres, with several hundred buildings of all sorts and sizes—some of them with a floor space of 14 acres, and those of ten acres quite common. Besides this there is an enormous garden on the Wooded Island, where everything new and old of any value in the floral line can be

seen—tropical beds on a scale never before attempted in this country, nurseries, an orange grove in full bearing, with other horticultural curiosities innumerable; the Midway Plaisance, where can be seen the amusements of all nations, and men and women of every nation in their peculiar costumes or the lack of them; restaurants of every degree, where the Chinaman or the Laplander, the Hindoo or the Scandinavian, can satisfy his appetite with his pet dishes; and so one could go on with an almost endless enumeration.

Let us now turn again to our own country and see what we can find to speak for the honor of the province. We will enter, as most visitors do, for the first time at any rate, at the Sixty-First Street gate, and in front of us we see the Horticultural Building. As we go in at the west door the name of Canada confronts us, and approaching we see a court devoted entirely to

**VEGETABLES.**

and recognize a familiar face, that of Captain James Barclay, of Binbrook, one of the successful farmers of the garden of Ontario, who smiles as we compliment him on the excellent showing he has made for his province. Ontario occupies the east side of the court, and arranged on the tables are all the roots usually grown on a Canadian farm, including mangolds, turnips, carrots, parsnips, etc. There are also 182 plates of potatoes, covering 86 distinct varieties, and all are of the highest excellence—much better in the case of the potatoes than was to have been expected of last year's crop, when the rot was so prevalent. Standing awhile in pleasant conversation with Mr. Barclay, and his assistant, Mr. Amos Burkholder, of Barton, we can hardly repress a smile at the quaint comment evoked by the sight of the vegetables. The potatoes everybody knows, but the huge mangolds, etc., are a novelty to the average visitor, who never saw them of such mammoth proportions. Farmers from Illinois, Iowa, and adjacent states, can hardly believe that so cold a country as Ontario, with a hard, unresponsive soil, as they have been led to believe, could raise products of such great excellence.

A great many false impressions have been removed by the Columbian Exposition, but in no way could Ontario have so effectually disposed of so many misconceptions as by the vegetables and fruit she shows here and in the curtain adjoining. The Experimental Farm at Brandon, Manitoba, as well as Quebec and the Lower Provinces, make an excellent display, which, however, does not differ materially in its leading features from that of Ontario.

**FRUITS.**

Leaving the vegetables we turn southward, and in a few steps get very far south indeed, our nostrils being filled with the delicious perfume of the citrus fruits of Florida, and our eyes feasted with their rich golden hues. In the White City we can outrun Puck, who should have been his patron saint, and in much less than forty minutes put a girdle round the earth. In a twinkling we pass through Oregon, Idaho, Missouri, Colorado and Washington, glancing as we pass at their mammoth pears, peaches and grapes, and looking up we see the familiar "Ontario" again, surmounting a handsome facade in black and red and gold. Here we find Mr. A. H. Pettit, of Grimsby, well known to Canadian fruit growers, and also as Secretary of the Central Farmers' Institute, and his assistants, Mr. W. M. Orr, of Stoney Creek, and Mr. James Brodie, of Grimsby, both practical fruit growers of long experience. To these gentlemen is due very largely the success of Ontario's fruit exhibit, in securing the collection of the specimens from all sections of the province, in preserving it in glass, packing for shipment, and arranging it here. The Ontario court takes up about half of the Canadian space, and its arrangement is most artistic. There are four tables, two facing the centre and side aisles, and two along the walls. At either end of the centre tables are high pyramids, on which are grouped the choicest of the preserved fruits, in jars of elegant designs and all sizes. Shelves run along the whole length of all the tables, on which are also glassed fruits. The extent and variety of this display is unequalled by any other country, and in some lines, currants and gooseberries especially, experts say they have never seen anything at all approaching them for size and beauty. Lower on the shelves are pails of the fruits of 1892, apples mostly, in their natural state. Last year was not specially good for apples—in Western Ontario at any rate—yet our fruit compared very favorably with that of any of the states. This fruit was sent to Chicago last October, and placed in cold storage, that being considered the best method of preserving it. Unfortunately, however, the storage warehouse was defective in some respects; for a very large proportion of the fruit was spoiled and unfit for exhibition, while the flavor of all was destroyed. The other provinces had a similar experience, as had also some of the states. At the time this letter is written the apples are almost done for, and it is intended to supply their places on the tables with fresh fruit as it is ready for shipment. Strawberries have been coming forward, but, owing to the negligence of the Express Companies, they are too long on the way, and do