

exhibitions was this year at the

TORONTO FAT STOCK SHOW, held under the auspices of the Agricultural and Arts Association, on the 14th and 15th of December. We have never seen in Canada such a fine lot of extra fat beefing animals assembled together. The accommodation for receiving and exhibiting the animals was undoubtedly very inferior. The Association expected to have been able to secure one of the skating rinks or the drill shed, but unfortunately were unable to do so. The judges, except in one instance, gave general satisfaction, and this case caused considerable discussion among the spectators, who frequently know as much about the animals as the judges appointed, but no set of men can exactly agree. The most astonishing feature of the exhibit was the fact that, despite the much lauded experience of the English, Scotch, Canadian and American farmers, and the care of the Irish, the Germans, whose names have hardly been mentioned in the Shorthorn records, brought to the show 36 head of fine fat cattle, principally bred and fed by themselves. They made a complete raid upon the prize list, leaving but a few second and third prizes to be taken by our old breeders and feeders. We might just as well admit the fact, and call this the Groff Exhibition of Fat Stock, for the honors awarded to others were so few in number, compared to those carried off by Messrs. Groff, to whom no favoritism was shown, they obtaining the prizes by pure merit. This is all the more creditable, from the fact that the Groff Bros. are not only very young in years, but are also very young at the business. It will be remembered that at the Chicago Fat Stock Show of 1882, it was generally admitted that the grand sweepstakes prize should have been awarded to these gentlemen. It was noticeable that at this, the Government exhibition, no beefing class was shown but Shorthorns. The exhibit of sheep was small, and that of pigs still more so. There was a fair display of poultry. The

SHORTHORN ASSOCIATION'S FIRST ANNUAL SALE

was held a short distance from the exhibition at Toronto, on the 14th and 15th December. The attendance of those who sent stock for sale was large, but purchasers were absent. The sale was honorably conducted in regard to the bidding, but the prices realized were not satisfactory to vendors. There seems to be an unusual dulness in the sale of Durhams this fall. Doubtless this can be attributed to the failure of the wheat, corn, clover, and other crops last season, causing farmers to act with greater caution in making purchases. We have heard that the Government is to be asked to vote a large sum of money for the purpose of sending to Europe to purchase more Shorthorns and other stock. We contend that the expense of such a trip is totally unnecessary, but if it is considered desirable to expend money for the purchase of stock, the money could be spent to a greater advantage by purchasing good animals from our own breeders, who now have

better animals than the Government are likely to import. Canadians own just as good animals as can be purchased outside of the Dominion, beside which there is much less probability of introducing or spreading contagious diseases in the country.

BEEES.

We are very fond of bees, and love to sit beside a hive and see the industrious creatures bearing home their treasures. When the labor on this journal became so heavy that it necessitated us leaving our farm, so fond were we of bees that we tried to keep them in the city, but they soon found an easier way of procuring honey than by their usual hard work. They invaded, in such numbers, a candy factory close to our residence, that the work people killed them by the thousand, besides getting into the pots and pans, they did worse, they waged war with the girls engaged in packing

Provincial Fair at Guelph, we noticed that Mr. G. B. Jones, of Brantford, obtained the following prizes:

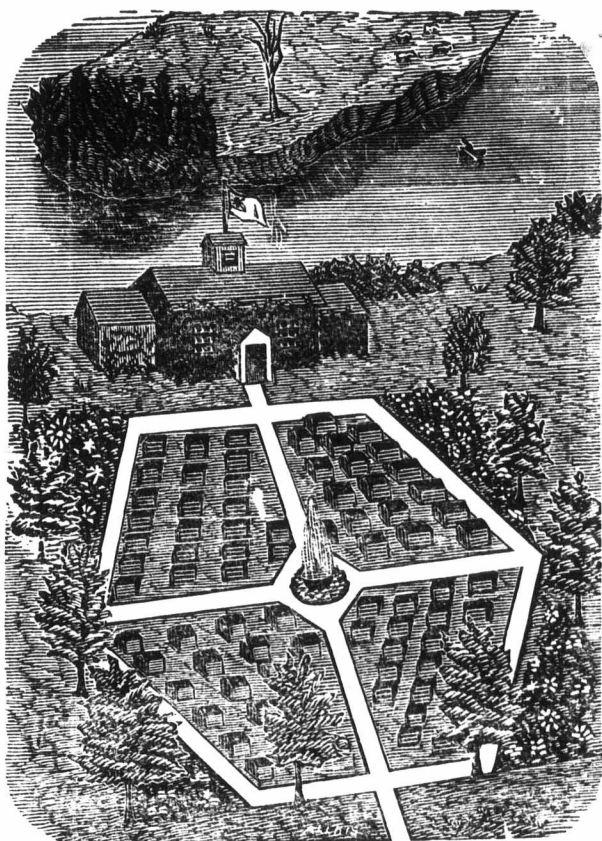
- Silver medal for the best bee-keepers supplies.
- Bronze medal for best honey extractor.
- Bronze medal for best wax extractor.
- 1st prize for best bee hive.
- 1st prize for the largest and best display honey in the comb.
- 1st prize for extracted honey.
- 1st prize for honey in the comb (quality and appearance.)
- 1st prize for largest and best display of extracted honey.

We concluded to pay Mr. Jones a visit; he resides about one and-a-half miles from Brantford. On the 21st of December we made the trip, and found hives about the grounds in front of a little low house or work shop, an illustration of which is herewith given. Although not done by our own artist, yet it will give you some little idea of the place. The white spaces denote the walks, the house is only 12x20 feet, having two small wings. Inside we find all necessary appliances for manipulating the bees and honey. Here we saw honey in the barrel, in the cans, and in the comb. The different grades of honey are kept by themselves; the earliest, and that which was awarded the first prize, is made from basswood. We thought this the best when tasting it. We next tasted that made from clover, and then that from the thistle. We were glad to know that there is some little value in thistles, but for all that we do not intend commending their culture

We found that the thistle honey almost equaled that made from basswood, and superior to clover honey. This fact may reconcile some of our readers to utilize the thistle and benefit by their growth, as the bees extract enormous quantities of honey from this weed, and despite all the laws which can be passed for its extermination, the thistle will hold possession on a great deal of our poor and rocky lands. Mr. Jones is a very enterprising young man, and will we hope in future numbers of this journal contribute useful and practical hints. This winter he is experimenting on the

two methods of keeping bees—by removing them into cellars or allowing them to remain out of doors all winter. After viewing all the latest appliances for preparing the wax, etc., etc., we were shown into the cellars and the proper method of arranging the hives was explained to us. Space prevents us from giving all this very interesting information, but a visit to Mr. Jones' apiary would amply repay any one about to enter into the business, or to those interested in bee-keeping; should you do so, don't forget that Mr. Jones' time is valuable or stationary and postage cost money. Mr. Jones is young, enterprising, and intelligent. Last year he had only 25 hives, from which he took about three tons of honey and doubled his stock of bees.

The price of the ADVOCATE is nothing to be compared with its value.
Delta, Ont. S. S.



VIEW OF BLACKBURNE APIARY, BRANTFORD, ONT.

the candies, and stung them so badly that at last the proprietor of the factory complained to us and we immediately got rid of all our bees, since which time we have had no opportunity to keep them, and during that time rapid progress has been made in bee-keeping. Better hives (thanks to Mr. Langstroth) are now used, and the insects are better cared for, consequently a greater quantity of honey is gathered, and bees are now better appreciated. One of our sons last summer, when his bees swarmed was busy with his hay crop and could not obtain a proper hive, so he put the bees into an old barrel, and in the fall took eighty pounds of honey out of the old barrel. Many of you, perhaps, have done no better. But Mr. J. B. Hill, of Woodstock, by using a Langstroth hive, obtained two hundred and eighty pounds of strained honey, has his bees left, and sufficient to feed them during the winter. At the last

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