

The Western Fair.

London formerly fairly won her spurs as the popular show of the season. At that time it was a purely agricultural show, free from the now considered necessary attractions which are attached to every exhibition, whether small or large, throughout the country. In point of attendance the management report a slight falling away, which cannot be credited to the weather, for on this occasion could it have been possible to have a prime article made to order furnished, exactly fitting the wants of visitors and exhibitors alike, this capricious factor could hardly have been improved upon.

In the live stock department some of the classes were filled with specimens of the very best description, while others made rather a meagre attempt at a display, in which the exhibitors too plainly showed it was prize money rather than a disposition to show their stock to the best advantage that they were after.

In the horse department a great improvement in the quality of entries was very apparent, and in all classes, both heavy and light, a substantial advance can be reported.

In thoroughbred horses, several of those that had been successful at Toronto came on to show at the Western, and in some instances were beaten by those freshly brought forward for the first time of this season.

In aged stallions Mikado, the representative from Thorncliffe Stock Farm, the property of Robert Davies, again led off with the winning color, and J. B. Martyn second with Banelaw, and Gold Fox third; while in the special for thoroughbreds calculated to produce hunters and saddle horses, Gold Fox carried it easily, for which he was entitled on account of his size and good all-round quality.

ROADSTERS

were the most numerous of any of the horse classes, and in individual animals there was a show of care in development, together with thoughtful breeding, that is in direct contrast with former years. Breeding is an art, and it is well for those entering upon horse breeding in any of the lines to consider where their sales are to be obtained. If beauty of form is entirely ignored breeders will find that they have thrown on one side one of the most potent attractions for the general demand.

THE CARRIAGE CLASS

was numerically strong, and individually contained many horses of superior type; and what made it all the more interesting was the fact that many new local competitors for honors appeared, in addition to those shown at Toronto. In the aged section Ardiel & Robson's Falconer, an imported Cleveland Bay of extra quality, a capital mover and a very showy specimen of the breed, won first honors, and Wm. Freil won second. In the three-year-old carriage class a particularly handsome chestnut horse, owned by Alvin Parker, Aylmer, with three Thoroughbred top crosses carried first. A recently imported two-year-old Yorkshire Coach, owned by Fred Row, of Belmont, carried first place as well as sweepstakes for the best stallion of the class. Mares and fillies were brought out in better form than usual, and altogether the carriage horses at London were a superior lot.

CLYDESDALES

contributed largely to the attraction of the horse exhibit, and were much more numerous represented than at any of the recent shows. The greatest interest was taken in the ring for aged stallions, of which eight of the ten entries came out. Of these only two had been forward from the Toronto show; these were Robert Davies' Energy and Sorby Bros'. Bold Boy, to which were added other candidates for the trial of strength, several of which have been successful as prize-takers here and elsewhere in other years. A short list of those just mentioned, together with Charlton Bros. & Oliver's Wigton Lad, N. Norton's Entry, and James Henderson's Lord Ullin. However, the decision hinged entirely on the question of type, and although the usual amount of dissatisfaction rested with the

proprietors of the vanquished horses, the fact remained patent that the judges could not have done otherwise than place the first named horses in advance, while to the handsome, though not large horse, Wigton Lad, they sent the third prize card. In three-year-old stallions Sorby Bros. won first in a rather small ring, Thomas Berry second, and John Prouse, Ingersoll, third, while in the two-year section Graham Bros'. Symmetry carried first, and was the strongest competitor for sweepstakes, which was won by Energy. The rings for mares and fillies were a repetition of those in Toronto, and the prizes were chiefly carried by the same animals, with the exception of a particularly good filly owned by A. B. Scott & Sons, Vanneck, which won second, and the yearly filly, owned by E. W. & S. Charlton, which also won second. Canadian-bred Clydesdales were a good lot, comprising many of the Toronto winners, with several of local celebrity thrown in. This class, in the mare and filly sections, is a good one all over Western Ontario, comparing favorably with those imported; but the same cannot be justly said as regards the stallions and colts, these on this, as well as other occasions, being rather inferior in quality.

SUFFOLK PUNCH.

The few Suffolk Punch horses were exhibited by Joseph Beck and A. & J. Salmon, and were the same as noted in the report of the Industrial.

HACKNEY HORSES.

Four of the six entries for Hackney stallions came forward in response to the call for this class, Graham Bros'. Firefly winning first, their second entry, Seagull, winning second, and J. D. O'Neil's Sir Garnet 3rd winning third place.

IN THE CATTLE DEPARTMENT

there was not only a meagre exhibit, but in several of the classes the cattle were not in that holiday attire in which we are accustomed to see them.

SHORTHORNS,

although decidedly not a strong collection, at least made a presentable appearance, and it is evident that the champions of this old, well-tried sort still know how to bring forward their favorites in order to gain the approval of the on-lookers. The principal exhibitors were Thos. Russell, Exeter, who won first on aged herd, and also taking a goodly share in each of the sections. James Snell, Clinton, also made a good exhibit. He came second in aged herd, and took his share of red tickets in the different rings. R. & S. Nicholson carried the majority of the prizes on both bull and heifer calves, and brought out two exceptionally good herds of both sexes, on which first and second were awarded. Among the balance of the prize-winners were Thos. Douglas & Sons, Strathroy; John Morgan & Sons, Kerwood; Simmons and Quirie, Ivan; J. Sanders, St. Thomas, each of which contributed to more than one of the sections.

HEREFORDS

came out but few in numbers, and were only represented by two herds, those of James Baker, Littlewood, and H. Adams, Embro, and between these the prizes were divided. Only one herd of

POLLED-ANGUS

appeared upon the ground, which was that of Wm. Stewart, Lucasville. In

GALLOWAYS

also one herd put in an appearance, which was that of David McCrae, Guelph. Among the dairy breeds forwarded were the

HOLSTEINS

of R. S. Stevenson, Ancaster, which gained the majority of the prizes in competition with those of Nagle and Donaldson, Delaware.

JERSEYS

were much more numerous, comprising quite a number of well brought out animals, of which the firm of Geo. Smith & Son, Grimsby, alone contributed over twenty head, while cattle from the herds of John O'Brien, London, and Richard Gibson, Delaware, won a number of prizes.

AYRSHIRES

were in greater numbers than any of the dairy breeds, several breeders having a goodly number of cattle that were brought out in fine shape, amongst which were the previously noticed herds

of Wm. Stewart, Menie, and M. Ballantyne, St. Marys, which were at Toronto, supplemented by the herds of Jas. McCormick, Rockton; Kains Bros., Byron, and Nichol Bros., Plattsville. Each of these breeders showed some exceedingly good animals, and the prizes were pretty equally divided among them.

THE SHEEP DEPARTMENT

was an exceedingly good one. In this the animals were well brought out, and each of the breeds were largely represented. It appeared as though the champions of each of these were doing their best to bring the exhibit in their particular class out in the most attractive form, and to make as good a display as possible.

IN COTSWOLDS

Wm. Thompson, of Uxbridge, led off with the grand imported flock of sixteen head, fresh from honors won at Toronto, with thirteen head from the flock of John Park, Burgessville, which also took a number of prizes at the same show. The above were supplemented with several new arrivals, which included the flock of eighteen sheep of capital breeding type, exhibited by Weeks & Shore, Glanworth, which comprised an imported shearling ram, a pair of imported aged ewes, shearling ewes of their own breeding, together with some ram and ewe lambs sired by the before mentioned ram, which showed a wonderful uniformity in form and fleece, with plenty of size and evenness of carcass. Laidlaw & Jackson, Wilton Grove, also had forward eight head from their well-known flock. Wm. Cumming, Lonsborough, had a flock of eight head on exhibition.

LEICESTERS

were forward in greater numbers than we have seen them for a number of years. In addition to the flock of James Snell, Clinton, previously noticed at the Industrial, John Laidlaw, Wilton Grove, exhibited eight head of carefully bred sheep, at the head of which was an aged imported ram of good size and fine, even form, that is doing good service in his flock, if one may judge by the young stock on exhibition sired by him. Nichols Bros., Plattsville, showed a nice flock, chiefly of their own breeding.

LINCOLNS.

This breed of long-woolled sheep has had much more attention paid to them of late years, and this year's display surpassed anything we recollect seeing. Wm. Oliver had his whole flock here, while Gibson & Walker divided their exhibit and sent the principal part of their flock to attend the exhibition at Montreal.

SHROPSHIRE.

This popular breed was out in the usual large supply, and of the several flocks on exhibition the sheep showed care in selection and capital breeding character. Besides the Thorncliffe flock and the flock of D. S. Hammer, both of which forwarded a goodly number of prize-winners, may be mentioned the very capital lot shown by Wm. Wright, Glanworth; of these no less than twenty-two head were on exhibition, all displaying good character and great care in breeding and feeding, which told in the show ring and carried winning cards. From the flock of Richard Gibson some sixteen specimens had been forwarded, comprising rams and ram and ewe lambs of even quality and good breeding.

DORSETS

The two flocks of these more recently introduced sheep, which were owned by Mr. John A. McGillivray and R. H. Harding respectively, were previously mentioned in the notice of sheep at the Industrial.

PIGS

were not in as large numbers as at some of the previous shows, but still there was enough to make a capital exhibit in all the breeds.

BERKSHIRES

were shown by J. Franks, Harrietsville; Simmons & Quirie, Ivan; George Hill, Delaware, and H. J. Davis, Woodstock, who also had a number of

IMPROVED LARGE YORKSHIRES

which carried prizes, the other exhibitor being J. E. Brethour, Burford, who had the principal exhibit of the breed, Joseph Baker, Littlewood, having forward a few head.