

The Rural Canadian.

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TORONTO FAT STOCK SHOW.

This exhibition, under the management of the Agriculture and Arts Association, was held on December 14 and 15. The members of the association had done all in their power to make the show a success; and although the number of cattle exhibited was not very great, yet the excellence of those shown amply made up for the shortage in numbers. The show was heavily handicapped by not having a suitable place in which to hold it. Last spring a deputation from the Agriculture and Arts Association waited upon the city authorities, and urged the necessity of providing a suitable building for the annual holding of the Fat Stock Show; but so far nothing has been done by the city to provide such accommodation, although unofficial promises are held out that before long such will be provided. It is only right that Toronto should have a large hall "down town" wherein the different associations connected with the agricultural interests, such as the Fat Stock Show, Clydesdale Horse, and Poultry Associations could hold their annual exhibitions.

These meetings are the means of drawing to the city large numbers of our rural friends, who doubtless make considerable purchases during their visits, and thus benefit the residents. Then the advantages to the citizens themselves in being able to witness the displays of the finest cattle, best horses and choicest poultry at their very doors, is worth considerable, and should induce the city fathers to erect suitable premises.

For the holding of the recent show, Messrs. Grand kindly placed their horse repository at the disposal of the society, the whole of the ground floor and a part of the upper story being taken up with the exhibit. The judging of the different classes took place in a ring formed by the placing of a few benches, quite sufficient to keep the spectators back from the judges. The cattle being so fat, they were only too glad to stand still in the small enclosure and allow themselves to be han-

dled. A prime lot they were in every class; but one opinion prevailed, "that the quality was all there."

The premiums offered were for pure breeds and grades, but only Durhams and their crosses were exhibited. None of the famous beef breeds were represented. It is no wonder that the Shorthorns are so great favourites with the farmers of Canada, when such splendid specimens of the breed are the champions, year after year.

It is a matter of regret that some of the breeders of Polled Angus, Galloways, or Herefords do not bring forward some of their favourites, or, at all events, some grades from the breeds.

The principal prize taker in the cattle was Mr. J. Kelly, jun., of Shakespeare, a name familiar to visitors at all previous fat stock shows and fall exhibitions. He had on hand a grand red steer, nearly a pure bred Durham, three years old, which, notwithstanding its great weight, 2,155 pounds, was remarkably level, the flesh being evenly distributed. Not a single hump was to be seen upon his immense body. The steer was a prize winner at last year's show, and made a gain of over four hundred pounds during the last twelve months.

Messrs. Satchell Brothers, the well known butchers of Ottawa, and purveyors to his Excellency the Governor General, purchased this grand animal, and a part of his carcass graced the festive board of his Excellency at Christmastide. The senior partner of the firm expressed to us his opinion that it was the best steer he had seen in Canada, or he would not have paid eight and a half cents per pound, live weight, for it.

Mr. Arthur Johnston, of Greenwood, showed a handsome pure bred white calf, which had to be shown as a yearling, being 375 days old, and weighing 856 pounds. If this youngster can only be kept on to increase at the same rate for another year it bids fair to be a champion animal. Being pure white, and of most graceful mould, it is a perfect picture.

John Russell, of Brougham, showed some good stock, notably a yearling steer weighing 1,506 pounds; age 656 days. Graum Brothers, of Ailsa Craig, had on hand a cow weighing 1,915 pounds. J. Deans, of Paris, showed a fine steer weighing 1,805 lbs.

The curiosity of the show was a colossal steer, owned by Mr. Thomas Beach, of Toronto, who had picked it up in Missouri, where it had been raised. It was stated to weigh over 3,000 pounds, and when competing for the prize of "best steer upon the ground" quite dwarfed the other competitors, large as they were. Lacking the fine quality and evenness of Mr. Kelly's steer, the judges had no difficulty about making the award.

To quote the words of a well known sheep breeder, "The sheep are a grand lot." All endorsed that opinion. No fault could be found with the extent of this section. Quantity and quality were both there. The animals