

thing over a hundred animals coming here from the west which were not at Toronto, and many of them of a very high class of merit. The Clydesdales were again in the majority, and made a very grand display, but there was a much better representation of both the agricultural and the carriage classes at Guelph, where the heavy draughts have not been so much sought after till recently. The judges in these classes, we believe, on the whole, made fairly good work, though it was thought by many competent critics that both in the sections for four-year-old and three-year-old imported horses, decisions were made that might well be reversed without doing injustice to any one.

CATTLE.

The Shorthorn class here was supplemented by quite a number of good things which were not at Toronto, and there were a few good things at the latter show that were not here. Conspicuous by its absence was the 1st prize herd at Toronto, and which was entered for the Provincial as well. The question was frequently asked, Where is the herd that was placed first at Toronto? and "echo answered, Where?" The Prince of Wales' prize of sixty dollars was here offered for the best herd of Durhams, a prize well worthy of competing for, amounting to more, both in money and in fame, than anything offered at Toronto, and it would naturally be supposed that the owners of the winning herd at the latter place would have been ready for the pay again, and anxious to add to their laurels the Prince of Wales' prize, but they seem to have thought it safer to act on the principle that

"He who fights and runs away, may live to fight another day."

We believe the judges on the class of Shorthorns, at Guelph, besides being tolerably competent men, were actuated by a desire to do right, and that they judged the cattle to the best of their judgment of their individual merits, and if in a few cases they erred, as, we believe, some disinterested stockmen thought they did, it was more a matter of difference in tastes, or, perhaps, from the fact that in some cases a view of the animals from the outside of the ring gives a better idea of their general make-up than can be got in a crowded ring, where the animals are so close together that a good side view cannot be obtained. Here the prizes in this class were divided between the Messrs Watt, Hunter, McQueen, Dryden, Armstrong, Fothergill, Green, Snyder and others, the first named gentlemen being the largest exhibitors and winning the largest number of prizes, including the Prince of Wales' prize, for the best herd of one bull and four females. The sweepstakes for best bull of any age was awarded to Messrs. Watts' aged bull, "Barnpton Herd," a decision from which many of the breeders were disposed to dissent. The old bull, no doubt, has been a good one, and is yet a good one for his age, and has made a good record as a sire, but he has evidently seen his best days, and there were first prize bulls in the younger classes that might well have been placed before him, and the decision, we think, would have been more generally approved. In the ring for two-year-old bulls the decision at Toronto was reversed, Mr. Green's "Earl of Mar" being placed first, and Mr. Fothergill's "Prince James" second, we believe, without doing violence to fine judgment, though both are so good and grand, we may say, in their widely different styles, that it is much a matter of taste which should win. Mr. Dryden's excellent young Cruickshank's bull, "Lord Glamis," deservedly won first in the yearling rings, as he should have done at Toronto, the winner there being prudently left at home as the safer place for him.

The calves' rings were not so largely filled as at Toronto, but were even more select, and the prizes somewhat differently distributed, the first prize going to one that did not get a place at Toronto, while the first prize calf there got no place here, which was clearly a difference in judgment, a not unusual thing in this ring, where so many good ones are shown, and the diversity in age and condition is considerable. The Messrs. Hunter, of Alma, who did not show at Toronto, made a good show of calves here, the get of their imported Booth bull, Socrates; and many were of opinion that they should have got a better place than third in the bull calf and heifer sections.

The sweepstakes for best Shorthorn female of any age, went again to Messrs. Snider's superb three-year-old cow, and the diploma for best four calves by one sire to Messrs. Watt's calves sired by Barnpton Hero.

In the Jersey classes the competition was again between the herds of Mr. Fuller and Mrs. Jones,

with very few exceptions, and here the three judges made sad havoc with the work of the American expert who placed them at Toronto; the third prize cow at the latter place being put first here, which, by the way, was Mr. Cooper's judgment also, as he said in his report, but for what he considered a defect in the appearance of her hind teats when her udder was full, but which does not show when it is not distended. The herd prize was also reversed, going to Mr. Fuller here, but Mrs. Jones was made happy, on the other hand, by her yearling bull "Florist" taking first place for sweepstakes over the far-famed "Thalma," and the youngster is certainly the coming show bull, if he has not already come to stay in that position; his soft, velvety skin of rich golden color, is something far away ahead of anything we have seen or felt in that line.

In the other breeds of cattle the competition was almost entirely the same as at Toronto, and, except in the Ayrshire class, the prizes were placed nearly as they were there, a good many changes being made in the decisions in Ayrshires. Galloways and Herefords, however, were out in greater numbers, this being the home of the two largest herds of these respectively in the Province.

A report of the cattle would be incomplete if we did not notice the grand show of fat steers, Shorthorns, and their grades, shown by the Messrs. Groff, McQueen and John Russell, the latter showing a pure bred Bates' heifer, weighing 2,200 lbs., and the first named firm a cow of wonderful quality and finish, besides a group of steers that would do credit to any feeder and to any show in the world.

THE SHEEP.

The sheep show at the Provincial was probably the largest ever got together in Canada, and in respect to quality and merit it is not too much to say that it was strictly first-class in all the breeds represented, excepting only the Merinos. The Leicesters being near home, turned out immensely, and the Downs were about the same as at Toronto, as also were the Cotswolds.

PIGS.

made a larger and a better show than at Toronto, owing partly to a more liberal prize list, and partly to the fact that a good many local breeders came in to try their luck, but with very few exceptions the prizes went where they did at the Toronto show, and exhibitors made few complaints against the judgment dispensed.

Special Contributors.

English Letter.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Liverpool, Sept. 17th, 1883.

The Canadian cattle trade has just undergone a severe ordeal, and I do not hesitate to say that but for the exertions of the Dominion Agent General, Sir Charles Tupper, and, in scarcely an inferior degree, of the Liverpool agent, Mr. John Dyke, it would have received almost a fatal blow. As your readers are no doubt well aware, Canadian cattle, and Canadian cattle only, have now the privilege of entering this country alive, and being moved from market to market according to the demands of trade. All the States cattle, and those from the continent, have to be slaughtered in the lairage at the port of debarkation; and this restriction is frequently, and especially in hot weather, of the most irksome and serious character: a temporary glut in the market involving the importers in heavy losses.

The cattle trade generally, and with it the Canadian live cattle trade, has been considerably depressed of late, and I hear on good authority that some of the dealers have been hard hit. Still, the privilege enjoyed by Canadian cattle is so valuable that any menace to it was a matter for serious alarm; and when it transpired, on the 24th ult., that the Dominion steamer "Lake Nepigon," which brought some 200 head of Canadian cattle which had been detained by order of the Privy Council Inspector here, Mr. Moore, on suspicion of splenic fever, the greatest consternation prevailed throughout the trade. The Privy Council in London at once sent down one of their chief inspectors, who examined the carcasses of several of the cattle

which had been slaughtered. He at once exploded the idea of the terrible splenic fever, but declared in favor of Texan fever. Sir Charles Tupper, with whom Mr. Dyke had at once communicated, saw the authorities and obtained a withholding of the fiat, which would have declared Canada an infected country until a further investigation had taken place. Eminent veterinary surgeons were summoned from all parts of the country, and on Monday, the 27th August, a thorough inspection and examination of all the animals by the "Lake Nepigon," and of other cargoes of Canadian cattle which had arrived in the meantime, was made by Sir C. Tupper, assisted by the Government Inspectors, Mr. Dyke, and the eminent veterinary authorities who had been called in. The result was a complete vindication of Canadian cattle from all taint of disease, and the only justification for their detention was declared to be some little irritation caused by the drinking of condensed water on board ship, and the other adverse influences of a summer voyage across the Atlantic. The escape was a narrow one, for if the representatives of the Dominion had not been so prompt and energetic in their action, there can be no doubt that the Privy Council would at once have acted on the reports of their inspectors, erroneous though they were, with most disastrous results to a trade which is already suffering some depression.

During the past week the Royal Manchester, Liverpool and North Lancashire Agricultural Society, one of the most important in the provinces, has been holding its show in Newsham Park in this city. It lost much of its interest, however, through the withdrawal, at the last moment, of cattle, sheep and pigs, consequent on the prevalence and rapid spread of foot and mouth disease. The show of horses, however, was good in all classes; proving that, notwithstanding the large export to Canada and the States, we have still a respectable stock left. A conspicuous feature amongst the general exhibits was the highly interesting stand under the supervision of the Dominion agent here, Mr. Dyke, which received a special visit from Lord Derby, the Colonial Secretary, who expressed himself much interested with the evidences before him of the resources and industries of probably the most progressive section of the Empire. Mr. Dyke was awarded by the judges a silver medal. The distribution of literature at the stand reached enormous proportions.

Special prizes were offered for Canadian cheese and butter, but, although this was extensively made known in the Dominion, not a single exhibit was made. Where is your enterprise?

The vicissitudes of the season from a farmer's standpoint, have, in this country, shown but little improvement on the long series of bad years which have ruined thousands of British agriculturists. The spring was too dry, the summer too wet, and the autumn, so far, has been too uncertain; two or three fine days and two or three wet ones, alternately, with a perplexing regularity. A fortnight's fine weather in the latter end of August enabled farmers with machinery, in the earlier districts, to get a large breadth of grain well harvested, but where hand labor has mainly to be depended on, and in all the later districts, the outlook is most unpromising. The potato crop generally is the best for many years, but disease is beginning to show itself in many districts, and there is still time for vast mischief to be done.

I have already mentioned incidentally the outbreak and spread of foot and mouth disease in this country. Over 29,000 head were affected last week, and the disease is spreading with amazing rapidity. There is no doubt that it is being imported from Ireland. It is stated on good authority that a few years ago Ireland was entirely free from