



HENRY WADE,
Secretary, 1883-1895.



WM. WHITELAW,
President, 1884.



JAS. MILLER,
Treasurer, 1884.
Vice-President, 1891.



ROBT. KIRBY,
Superintendent, 1884.

History of the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair

The history of the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair dates back to 1883, just thirty-seven years ago, when the first show, then called the "Annual Christmas Fat Stock Show," was held under the auspices of the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario and the Toronto Electoral District Agricultural Society, in the City of Toronto, December 14th and 15th. The management was under the following committee:—

Charles Drury, M.P.P.; John Carnegie, M.P.P.; George Moore; J. C. Snell, from the Agricultural and Arts Association; Andrew Smith, V.S.; Wm. Rennie; J. J. Withrow; J. E. Mitchell, from the Toronto Electoral Division Agricultural Society; A. Smith, Chairman; J. P. Edwards, Treasurer; and Henry Wade, Secretary. It may be interesting to note the expenditures of this show as taken from the financial statement:—

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|--|-------------------|
| Paid judges and working expenses | \$95.05 |
| Band | 28.00 |
| Fitting building | 87.75 |
| Electric light | 47.00 |
| Printing and advertising | 205.88 |
| Prizes | 1,340.00 |
| | \$1,803.68 |

At that time prizes were awarded for the best essays on the Show. The following are extracts from these essays on the Show of 1883:—

"The Exhibition was held in the Commercial Hotel Stables, a very convenient place in many respects, being central, near the market, and suitable for the weighing of the many animals on exhibition. The stables were commodious, but ill-adapted for the purpose. On entering the building one was at once convinced of the fact that the Managers and Directors had made the best of the accommodation afforded them. The animals were arranged around the wall in good order, leaving a long passage up the centre for the convenience of visitors. This space was well bedded with shavings, making a soft carpet for the animals to stand on during the judging. The judging ring was rather small; the animals, when standing across it, took up nearly all the width, leaving the Judges scarcely room enough to get around, and still worse, leaving very

little room around the outside of the ring for the numerous visitors who were anxious to get a good view of the massive animals as they were brought into the ring."

Sales.

"Most of the cattle sold readily at good prices, some at extraordinary figures. Mutton was not much in demand, notwithstanding that Mr. Kelly slaughtered and dressed a fine two-year-old sheep, which was delicious-looking enough to tempt the palate of the most scrupulous. W. Ryan, Esq., purchased 'Riley' from John Norris for the sum of \$200, weight 2,350 pounds. Mr. Downing purchased Groff's Champion, 'Elmira,' and 'Waterloo' at 12½ cents per pound, but afterwards sold them again. Groff's 'Maid of Honour' was sold to G. F. Frankland for 12 cents per pound. Also 'Princess Louise' to R. R. Carker, Bowmanville, for 12 cents per pound. 'Punch' was sold to Mr. Hugh Kelly for 9 cents per pound. Thompson & Sons purchased 'Young Sherman,' 'Hopewell,' and 'Blossom' from Groff's herd at 9½ cents per pound. Twenty-two other animals of Groff's sold to Hugh Kelly for 6 cents per pound. Gibson's 'White Duke' was sold to G. F. Frankland for the sum of \$300. Russell's 'Fuschia Duchess' was sold for \$300 to Britton Bros. McQueen's bull, 'Duke of Athol,' was purchased by Mr. H. Kelly for the sum of \$200, to distribute among the poor for a Christmas dinner."

"In regard to the stables proper, not much could be expected of them; they were dark, requiring artificial light throughout the whole day, so preventing a very close inspection of the animals within them. However, as very few of the show animals were there, the new room being large enough for their accommodation, there was not much inconvenience felt. The worst feature about the arrangement was the insufficient space for a suitable ring for judging purposes. Although there were very few visitors for a city of Toronto's dimensions, yet there was great difficulty in getting animals in and out of the ring, and by the time six or seven head had reached the inside, there was a blockade there also. But such inconveniences are small matters, and no doubt ere another year has passed by, Toronto will be prepared to give the magnificent animals that flock to its second Christmas Show a more roomy reception."