

the varieties, there being about 100 shown, all told. Jno. Pletsh, Shakespeare; J. G. Taylor, Woodstock; F. R. Shore & Son, White Oak; Geo. Colwell, Paris; Geo. Bogue, Strathroy, and several others won 1st awards. Black Minorcas put up a good display, the chief winners being J. H. Minshall, Brantford, and Geo. A. Sager, Chatham, carrying off the best awards. Red Caps had in all 27 entries of birds well up to perfection. G. W. Kinder and Geo. Bogue, both of Strathroy, were the victorious competitors.

The heavy breeds, such as Brahmas and Cochins, were good, their being usually from four to seven entries in the various sections. Among the chief exhibitors were Thorpe & Scott, L. Sage, C. A. Stewart, H. Wyatt, Latta Bros., and R. Oke, all of London, and David Bogue, Lambeth. Silver-Gray Dorkings and Houdans were fine, David Bogue being the chief exhibitor. The Game classes were heavy, especially the Indian, of which there were some 25 birds. Bantams were fine and too numerous to mention, the heaviest exhibitor being Wm. McNeil, London. Among the light classes in numbers were the following: Polands, Creve Coeur, La Fleche, Sultan, Langshans, Dominiques, Spanish, Andalusians, and Hamburgs.

Bronze and White Holland turkeys were represented by small entries of good birds, the chief winner being W. H. Beattie, Wilton Grove. Wm. Gould, Glencoe, also won 1st prizes. Bremen and Toulouse geese were present, being exhibited principally by Geo. Colwell, Paris, who also did well showing ducks. There was a fair entry of Aylesburys, Rouens, and Pekins, some three being shown in each of the four sections for each breed. Colwell, of Paris; Bogue, of Lambeth, and W. N. Barr, Tilsonburg, won the 1st awards throughout.

HORTICULTURAL AND AGRICULTURAL.

Fruits, flowers, vegetables and other agricultural products formed a particularly attractive feature of the Western Fair. Naturally, the apple display was light, and if the other sorts were not as numerous as one would like, or as they ought to be, the superior quality made up for the shortage. The steady improvement of our finer fruits is keeping pace with the general progress of agriculture. In the whole exhibition there is no department in which pleasanter hours can be spent than amidst the horticultural display.

The Necessity for Bleeding Hogs Well.

Just as the presence of casein in butter is detrimental to its keeping quality, so also is the presence of blood in the carcasses of pigs injurious to their satisfactory curing. This was well shown in a paper recently read under the auspices of the Danish Co-operative Bacon Factories Association. The writer of this paper laid special stress upon the importance of thoroughly bleeding pigs immediately after slaughter. This was, he said, particularly necessary in hot weather, because of the fact that congealed blood in meat is very liable to go bad after the temperature reaches a certain point. The more blood there is left in the body when the pig is being dressed, the more favorable will be the condition for the development of the bacteria which bring about the decomposition of the meat. Many of the "taints" frequently complained of in bacon, hams, etc., are, according to the author of this paper, due to the fact that pigs are not sufficiently bled at the time they are killed. Taints often develop in bacon and hams while these are passing through the smoking process; and this is explained by the fact that while being smoked the temperature of the meat is such as to specially favor the development of the germs or bacteria which bring about decomposition.—(Exchange.)

Canadian Range Steers at the Pan-American.

The exhibition at the Pan-American, by the Canadian Northwest Government, of two carloads (30 head) of high-grade three-year-old Shorthorn and Hereford steers, fresh from the range, was a good movement, and one well calculated to advertise the claims of the Northwest Provinces as a cattle country. These steers, which had never during their lives had hay, grain or shelter before being shipped to the Winnipeg stock-yards for export to England, weighed on arrival there an average of 1,425 lbs., and were in fine condition on arrival at Buffalo, after a six-days journey, during which time they were unloaded only twice for feeding. They were big, smooth, thick-fleshed cattle, and stood the ordeal of shipment remarkably well. They were greatly admired by Eastern farmers, many of whom declared that they were far away better cattle than are turned out of the stalls in the East after being grain-fed all winter. When it is remembered that the past summer in Alberta and Assiniboia has been unusually wet, and the feeding quality of the range grass less nutritious than in average seasons, these cattle must be considered exceedingly creditable to the capabilities of our great range country.

The Ewe and Ram in the Mating Season.

BY J. M'CAIG, ONTARIO.

Autumn is the beginning season for the shepherd. He may have faults of size or type to correct, and he certainly always has a chance to cull something that doesn't just suit his fancy and that destroys flock beauty and uniformity. Apart from this, he has certain important matters to attend to relating to care and management.

Strength and vigor in lambs is considerably a matter of the care and feeding of the lamb, but is, besides, a transmitted or inherited quality, and it should be the aim of the breeder to have his breeding stock in vigorous condition at mating time. This vigor depends on care. Good vigor means plenty of blood and the active exercise of all the animal functions, and plenty of blood requires plenty of feed; so to have all the ewes strong they must be generously fed.

At weaning time, a shepherd in looking at his ewes will see some in good flesh and some thin and wasted. If a buyer comes in he will pick the fat ones. The shepherd, on the other hand, knows that the thin ones are generally the milkers, and are the ones with the big lambs running beside them. His selection of ewes for his next year's flock is not a matter of good looks alone, but of history as well. The milkers, however, if not too old, generally make up quickly after weaning, because they are hearty feeders, and five or six weeks after weaning there is not much difference observable among the ewes.

In any case the ewes should be brought up into fresh condition before mating time. They should be round and plump and strong. Good health means general activity of the animal functions: nutritive, circulatory, nervous and generative, and as these are of course closely sympathetic and relational, and the fundamental one is nutritive, the breeder builds up the sheep's general system by generous feeding. It is well known that good feeding is a most obvious and universal stimulant to the procreative functions, as may be seen in the earlier breeding of all domestic animals that have been brought to early maturity by intensive feeding. Extra food to ewes, then, is to be given as a stimulant rather than a fattener, and should come as a decided, not to say exactly sudden, addition to ordinary rations, and it should be given about three weeks before the mating season. Before the mating season the ewes should be neatly and carefully trimmed about the tail. It is not only necessary, but if done nicely gives a tidy appearance to the flock. It is perhaps an opportune place here to emphasize the need of cutting the tails of ewe lambs quite short in the spring. It reduces the tendency to scalding, fouling and maggots among good feeding sorts, and the tendency is greater, of course, in ewes than in rams.

Perhaps we are not expected to let up on talking about rams. We don't intend to. How is it that a man who thoroughly loves being with his sheep aspires, above everything else, to be a breeder of real good rams? Not entirely profit, we think. The males seem to be more potent as transforming agents (as any breeder soon finds out) than the ewes are; and, again, they come with a most tantalizing combination of various good or bad qualities. Ewes look all pretty much alike, but who ever saw anything like absolute uniformity in a bunch of males? They seem to express more individuality than the ewes. They keep you guessing harder in securing the correct type. Perhaps this is an element in their attractiveness. Their faults as well as excellencies are more glaring than they are in ewes. Just the same, we intend to keep right on making the best rams we can. But this is another story.

The ram should be in strong condition in the fall. He will stand higher feeding and requires higher feeding than the ewe, so long as his feeding does not tend to induce obesity or overfatness, and consequently indifference. It is possible to develop a ram past the highest usefulness by fat, but it is necessary to bring him up to good heart at least.

A ram will serve more ewes by being kept up and allowing only one service than he will if let run with the ewes, but if a flock consists of only twenty or thirty, the exercise he secures in outdoor feeding is an advantage to him. A mature ram that is allowed to serve but once is good for seventy-five ewes. If he is allowed to run with them, forty is plenty among the heavier, well-fed breeds. The ranchers say fifty to eighty for a mature ram. This number seems high when we consider that the rams used are not rams raised under range conditions, but that have been accustomed to travelling only short distances for their daily food. Not more than fifty should ensure a safer and stronger lamb crop.

The Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition.

The fifth Provincial Exhibition was held in the quaint old City of Halifax, from September 14th to 21st. After Toronto, the Halifax event seems rather small, but it was a really good show after all, and in many sections showed a marked improvement over previous years. It possessed the usual "special attractions" for the grand stand, but it is questionable whether these were any real advantage. The horse races were good, the contests being spirited and the time fast for a half-mile track.

AMONG THE EXHIBITS.

HORSES.—A great improvement was noticeable in the horse exhibits. Standard-breds and Clydesdales were out in largest numbers, and many first-class animals were brought forward. Thoroughbreds were not very numerous, but the quality was good. Roadsters and Hackneys made a strong showing, and the Carriage and General Purpose classes were fairly well filled.

SHORTHORNS.—In this breed, C. A. Archibald, Truro, N. S., and Frank E. Dickie, Canard, N. S., had the main exhibits, and honors were fairly evenly divided. C. W. Holmes, Amherst, N. S., also brought out a herd, including a two-year-old Watt-bred bull, which was good enough to win the male championship. The herd of F. G. Boyer, Georgetown, P. E. I., was represented by only a calf or two, and his usual strong string was greatly missed. Other exhibitors were Oscar Chase and D. S. Collins, Port Williams; J. C. West & Son, Aylsford; S. R. Lane, Cherry Valley, P. E. I.; and several others. Holmes had the champion bull, and Archibald the champion female. Dickie captured both the aged and young herd prizes; while Archibald took the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' special for bull and four females any age, and first and second for female any age. Perhaps the hardest class to judge in the whole exhibition was the ring of aged Shorthorn bulls. Dickie brought out imported Flower Crown, by Flower King, a bull of great scale, but lacking something in quality. Archibald had Robert the Bruce, by King James, smooth and deep, but lacking a little in thickness at the crops, and not just as good on his hind legs as he might be. Lane pushed them hard with Silver Chief, by Indian Chief, a bull which had previously won high honors in the hands of Mr. Boyer. He is wonderfully smooth, but lacks a trifle in thickness of flesh, has less of depth than Robert the Bruce, and resembles him somewhat in forerib. It was a puzzle to know what to do with them, and good reasons could be assigned for placing any one of them first. They were finally ranked in the order named.

HEREFORDS.—Notwithstanding the fact that W. W. Black, of Amherst, had sent most of his best stock to Toronto and Buffalo, he nevertheless brought out a very good herd. For the first time he had competition, his opponents being the firm of Davidson Bros., Annapolis, N. B., and A. S. Fillmore, Southampton, N. S. Black secured most of the firsts, though Davidson Bros. put up a good strong fight and made the competition interesting. Davidson Bros. had first on bull calf under six months, cow four years old and over, and yearling heifer, the remainder of the red tickets going to the Amherst herd. Black showed a capital yearling bull, bred by H. D. Smith. He is by Mark Hanna, and is intended for a stock bull to succeed Sir Horace. Sir Horace has done remarkably good work, and a heifer calf by him was made champion female. She is a beautiful calf and difficult to fault.

ABERDEEN-ANGUS.—While the number of Angus cattle was not large, the quality was excellent. Herbert Stairs, Hillaton, N. S., and John Richards, Biddeford, P. E. I., were the competitors; and judging by the start these gentlemen have made, they will make Ontario breeders look after their laurels should they take a notion to visit our fairs. Besides a number of choice females, there were two particularly good young imported bulls, a two-year-old belonging to Stairs, and a yearling imported by Richards. These two bulls came together for the championship, and gave the judge a difficult question to decide. The award was finally given to the Stairs bull, though it might, perhaps, have been given with equal justice to the other. The Richards bull is a particularly stylish youngster, and if he keeps on he will yet make it interesting for the best of them.

GALLOWAYS.—Two herds were out, that of the veteran, Senator Ferguson, and a new man, W. W. Pinco, Waterville, N. S. There were some really good animals in this class, but they were shown in very low condition and did not do justice to the breed in the way of showing what they are capable of as beef-producers. The Senator had the better of the argument.

DEVONS.—G. W. Churchill, Chegoggin, N. S., showed a herd, but they were in low condition.

AYRSHIRES.—This breed made a splendid showing. The principal exhibitors were C. A.