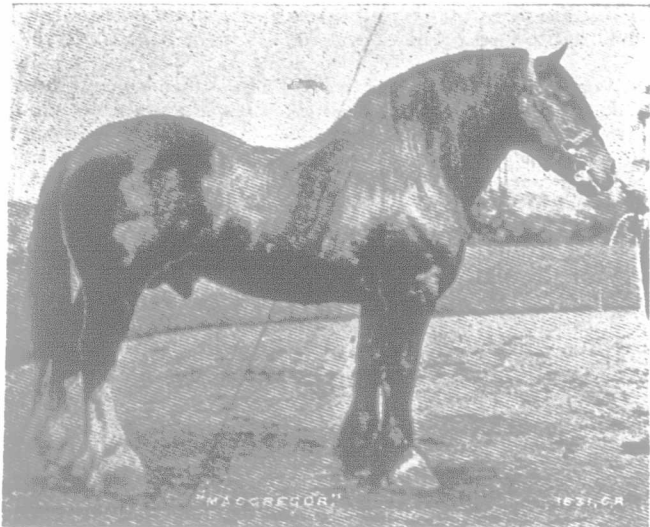


steins and Ayrshires were few in number. J. H. Irwin was awarded first on Holstein bull, and M. B. Halpenny on Ayrshire. A thick-set, promising young Polled-Angus shown by Charles Lee was awarded first prize.

Sheep.—Only a few were shown, Messrs. J. A. McGill and David Coulter, Jr., being the exhibitors.

Berkshires.—This department was well filled with as nice and even a lot of Berkshires as are seen at any local fair held in Manitoba. J. A. McGill was the chief exhibitor, winning first prize on a boar one year and over, sow one year and over, boar and sow under one year, boar and sow any age. Included in this exhibit were the following: Charmer 2nd, an excellent sow, with great length and depth of side, with full, deep hams and a fine head. She was purchased from the J. G. Snell



CLYDESDALE STALLION, "MACGREGOR" (1487).
Died July, 1899, in his twenty-second year.

estate, and is as handsome a Berkshire as can be found in this Province. The stock boar, Fitz Lee, made an enviable reputation in eastern showings before coming to Manitoba, and has proved an excellent sire in Mr. McGill's herd. The two-year-old boar, General Booth, was awarded first place and diploma. He is a lengthy, deep, level fellow, sired by a McKenzie-bred boar, out of Lady Clifford, of Coxworth breeding. Rosamond, a large, even sow, was awarded second place as sow and litter; her second litter this year. She is an excellent brood sow, as her young ones show, and is a profit to her owner, as she never fails to raise two litters each year. She is by Snell's Enterprise. Nora 1st, a particularly good sow, but thin in flesh, owing to having raised a litter of pigs. A spring litter from Rosamond, sired by Fitz Lee, were also an attractive addition to McGill's exhibit. The youngsters were well up in flesh and nicely proportioned, having good length and depth, nice heads and hams. Out of this young litter the first and second boar under one year were chosen. Harry R. Keyes, of Midway, was awarded first place on Lady Clifford, a smooth, low-set sow of Coxworth breeding, with a litter of five strong, well-fleshed youngsters, sired by a boar from Brown, of Portage la Prairie. Thomas J. Bell showed two sows and a boar, bred by Brown; and Walter Card showed two nice grades, and a Berkshire sow of Snell breeding. James Laidler was a large exhibitor of Berkshires, and showed some very good ones. He won a number of prizes—second with boar one year and over, second on aged sow, and second on boar under one year.

Mr. James Robertson showed Poland-Chinas. The foundation of his stock was purchased from D. Fraser & Sons, of Emerson. He won first on aged sow, on sow and litter, and on aged boar.

The exhibit of poultry was small, yet there were some good specimens of different breeds on exhibition. Pekin ducks were shown by R. Chisholm, and geese by Wm. Millar and H. Stevens. Brown Leghorns, the cock imported from New York, shown by H. R. Keyes, were first prize winners. Light Brahmas were shown by James Skelding, and Plymouth Rocks by J. A. McGill.

Upon the whole the Neepawa Fair was a splendid success, and President G. S. McGregor, Sec.-Treasurer John Wemyss, and the other officers, deserve congratulation at the result of their first summer fair.

Death of Mr. James Cooper.

We regret to learn from a press despatch of the death, on August 18th, in his 60th year, of Mr. James Cooper, of Kippen, Ont., well known to many of the readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE as an enterprising importer and successful breeder of registered Shropshire sheep. Mr. Cooper was born in the Township of Tuckersmith, on the farm adjoining the Village of Kippen, on August 26th, 1836. He was a man of fine physique and of more than ordinary intelligence and good judgment. He was frank, truthful, upright and honorable in all his transactions, and lived so that he secured the respect and confidence of his neighbors and of all who knew him. In addition to his many sterling qualities, he was also very kindly and genial in disposition and manner, and thus made hosts of friends. His aged and venerable mother, two sons and seven daughters are left to mourn their loss.

Through Southern Manitoba.

Without visiting South-western Manitoba very little idea can be had of the wheat-growing capacity of the Province. The crop acreage of the south-western statistical division far exceeds any other. Along the south-western branch of the C. P. R. magnificent crops could be seen, and on August 15th the ripening was well advanced, binders being at work in many fields, especially on the lighter soils. Generally speaking, the crop is wonderfully good; lightish on some thin soils where the dry spell that followed the wet growing season took out all the moisture, and, of course, light on land poorly farmed. As usual, good farming and thorough cultivation stand out conspicuously ahead of less careful preparation. During the past few years a wonderful improvement in the summer-fallows is distinctly noticeable. More pains appear to be taken in plowing, and surface cultivation is becoming more general, in order to encourage germination of weed seeds, destroy them as they germinate, and by keeping up the soil mulch, conserve moisture for the benefit of the succeeding crop. Of course on light and drifting soils there are great disadvantages to *fining* the surface, and the necessity of seeding down to grass to get root fiber into the soil, which will effectually prevent drifting, is becoming more and more apparent. As a rule, this year, there is a marked freedom from weeds in this crop, and there will be little complaint about handling dirt at the elevators this fall. With the exception of, perhaps, a few spots, the land along the Souris River is all excellent wheat land, mostly a sharp, easily-worked, warm, early soil.

MELITA DISTRICT.

Prettily situated on the north bank of the Souris River lies the prosperous little town of Melita, surrounded on all sides by good wheat land. Southward, on what is locally called the "peninsula," a representative of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE recently visited a few of the farmers, among them being Mr. J. T. Lennox, who has about 125 acres of wheat on his three-quarter-section farm. His garden is, however, the feature of greatest interest; situated on the steep banks of the Souris, with boating privileges and nicely sheltered walks and retreats among the natural shrubbery of the river banks. On the deep, rich bottom lands, closely sheltered on all sides, is a garden plot, where tomatoes, corn and other vegetables are growing in richest profusion. Above, on the higher slopes, with western exposure, are plots of small fruits, etc., sheltered by belts of maple, a number of hedgerows of which encircle the grounds and buildings. Mr. Robt. Gifford, on the adjoining half-section, from the very evident signs of good farming, and good management about the farm buildings, garden and crops, is not only making a success of farming, but a very comfortable home. A little further up the river Mr. John Williams, who always takes a prominent part in local Institute work, farms a good half-section, having over 100 acres of wheat and 65 of oats, barley and millet. Mr. Williams has a small herd of beef grades, headed by the Shorthorn bull, 4th Earl of the Manor, a four-year-old, bred by J. T. Gibson, of Denfield. Nearer the town, again, lives Mr. D. J. Dobbins, Reeve of Arthur, and his two brothers. Northward of the river, for a number of miles, stretches a fine wheat district. Adjoining the town, to the east, with a beautiful situation on the river banks, is Dr. Davidson's farm, and on the west Postmaster R. M. Graham works a half-section. About the buildings, an illustration of which appeared in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE years ago, a beautiful grove of trees of many varieties not only adds adornment and comfort, but serves as an example of what may be accomplished. The native maple, ash, poplar, elm, spruce, and many shrubs go to make up the groves and hedges. Mr. Graham had 15 acres of fodder corn, one of the best fields we have seen in the country. North of the town, Mr. B. Underhill, Dominion Homestead Inspector, farms a half-section of excellent land on the banks of a deep coulee. The crop consists of 145 acres of wheat and 35 of oats, with 75 acres of summer-fallow. A Sylvester weeder was used this spring with most satisfactory results. It was kept going almost continuously, killing crop after crop of weeds as quickly as they germinated, without injuring the wheat in the least. Mr. Robert Oxley farms an adjoining section, and had one of the best pieces of oats seen on the trip. Mr. R. Edmondson, Mr. Cole, and Mr. Thos. Hope are also prominent farmers in this neighborhood. Mr. Edmondson's grounds are very attractively laid out with drives and lawns, bordered with trees. His vegetable garden is located in a circle surrounding what is known as a "pot-hole." A bunch of willows grow in the center, and catch lots of snow. The soil is rich and moist, and the luxuriant growth of vegetables is evidence of the suitability of the location. West of the town, A. M. Campbell, M. P. P., farms a whole section, and adjoining him on the north and west, J. J. Anderson and sons have some 1,200 acres of wheat, besides a large area in oats and summer-fallow.

ELVA.

This little town has only recently sprung into existence; has now four standard elevators, stores, etc. It is situated right in the center of a fine wheat-producing country. Everywhere are immense fields of wheat, with every prospect of big

yields. Big farms are the rule in this district. North of the town are, among others, Jas. Modeland, Jull & Sons, Stratton Bros., Sturgen Bros.; and to the south, W. A. Robinson, Skelton Bros., the Furtneys, Stirlings, and many others. Next the town, to the south, Mr. Jas. Bummell farms a quarter-section, and has devoted considerable attention to tree-planting and gardening. He has now the house well enclosed in a heavy growth of maples, with a few ash, cottonwoods, spruces, cedars, pines, caragana hedges, native plums, etc. An excellent vegetable garden and a fine lot of small fruits are also grown. These little green spots here and there among the great wheat fields give one a glimpse of the wonderful beauty this country will present when every home is adorned with plantations of trees, shrubs, fruits, etc. And the day is not far distant.

BOISSEVAIN.

From Deloraine to Killarney the crops are almost universally heavy. In driving south of Boissevain there was a remarkable evenness in the quality of the crops. Throughout all this district a marked advance is evidenced by the number of fine barns that are going up. Boulder stone is plentiful on the banks of the numerous ravines, and these are being turned to good account in stable walls and house foundations. Time being limited but few calls were made. Along the road travelled good substantial barns were noted at the following places: W. J. Armstrong, J. McCausland, S. Oaks, J. Fisher, Wm. Ryan, and J. G. Washington. Mr. Ryan is well known in connection with the Provincial Dairy Association. He has three quarter-sections, 200 acres of wheat, 85 of oats, and 70 in summer-fallow; and his son, N. J. Ryan, has 200 of wheat, 200 in fallow, and 70 of oats. Mr. Ryan has a fine stone basement barn, with windmill, etc. He aims to keep the temperature low in winter, and has satisfactory ventilation. Besides a few high-grade Shorthorns, several Thoroughbreds are kept. Mrs. Ryan, in addition to her household duties, finds time to keep up a fine yard of poultry, Bronze turkeys, Toulouse geese, Silver-laced Wyandottes.

Mr. Washington's buildings are well sheltered on the west and north by groves of maple, and the barn is of a neat design, on stone basement. His herd of Shorthorns numbers 18 or 20 head, among them some individuals of exceeding merit. (See Gossip columns.) Besides Shorthorn cattle, a few Clydesdale horses are bred. Mr. Washington farms quite extensively, and has been very successful in growing timothy and Brome grass.

PLUM COULEE.

Plum Coulee lies almost in the center of the Mennonite Reserve, has five grain elevators, and secures a good share of the trade from the well-settled and prosperous surrounding country. Mennonite villages dot the horizon east, surrounded with beautiful clumps of trees planted years ago; while as yet the progressive and business center lies unprotected on the bare prairie. Many of the Mennonites have left the "village" system and located on farms by themselves, and judging by external evidences of progress, are thus making decidedly more headway. One of the few Canadians farming in the vicinity of Plum Coulee is Mr. A. Wright, and he certainly does no discredit to his country. His half-section is first-class wheat land, bearing a very heavy crop, and his buildings and yards are almost without exception the neatest and tidiest to be seen anywhere. Dwelling house, stable, granary, piggery and poultry house, all are models of neatness and comfort. Prosperity is written in big letters right across the face of the whole farm.



FULLPAIL.

Grade Jersey. First-prize dairy cow for the last three years at the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition.
OWNED BY WM. SHARMAN, SOURIS, MAN.

Appreciated Abroad.

Under the heading, "Creamery Butter," we note the following in the Elgin (Ill.) Dairy Report: "We find in our esteemed contemporary, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, an article on creamery butter by Mr. F. J. Sleightholm, of Ontario. We reproduce it in part, as it contains so much of good, sound, practical, everyday common sense as applied to the problems that are confronting our manufacturers of creamery butter in this country as well. It shows what has been done in Canada to produce the best results."