

Leicester and Lincoln Sheep.

We have recently received a number of letters from subscribers in various parts of the Dominion, asking if there is any difference between these breeds, as bred in Canada—particularly as bred by Ontario breeders. Ontario is particularly specified, because from her breeders nearly all the other provinces, and many of the states of the American Union, draw their supply of pure-bred sires and females to establish flocks and improve those already founded.

For many years each of these breeds has had a class at all of the large exhibitions in Ontario. There has always been a difference between well-bred Leicesters and Lincolns; yet some breeders have, doubtless, in a measure lost sight of this difference, and have crossed to some extent. In former years, even some of the exhibitors at our large fairs did enter their sheep in both classes and show in the one in which there was the better chance of gaining the prize money. We have even known of cases where the same sheep were shown in both classes at the same exhibition, and won prizes in each class. It was a dangerous task, but was successfully carried out by one exhibitor on more than one occasion. Such actions are dishonest and reprehensible in the extreme, and we are glad to say few, if any, Canadian breeders resort to such modes now, nor have such practices been followed for several years by any representative breeder.

Records have been founded for each of these breeds. All pure-bred flocks must now be registered in their respective flock books; therefore hereafter a more marked difference will be observed between these two breeds than in former years.

It is the duty of all exhibition managers to insist that all sheep shown must be registered in a recognized flock book before they are allowed to compete in any class, except as fat sheep. Such a course would be alike profitable and just to both breeders and buyers; to the breeders because dishonest men who show and sell grade sheep as pure-bred, often winning valuable prizes and selling readily, would be compelled to take their proper position, and sell their stock for what they really are—grades. Honest breeders, whose stock are properly bred, should not be compelled to compete with cross-breeds in the pure-bred classes. By such a course innocent purchasers would not be imposed upon by buying a grade sheep because it won a prize at a large show. A certain gentleman, who has been placed in an official position, has been reported to us as saying, that "there are no pure-bred Leicesters in Ontario," that "the Lincolns and Leicesters have been interbred to the ruination of both classes," and that "if buyers want to obtain pure-bred Leicesters, they must send to England for them." Another letter from New Brunswick states that this gentleman says, "these two breeds are crossed and then called pure-bred."

It is true official gentlemen have bought such grades for "pure-breeds," but we wish it distinctly understood that we have many skilled and honorable breeders in Ontario who breed pure Leicesters, as pure and as good as can be obtained in England. We refer our readers especially to the flocks of John Kelly, jr., Shakespeare, Ont., Wm. Whitlaw, Guelph, Ont., Messrs. Snell, Clinton, Ont., Jeffreys Bros., Whitby, Ont., and many others. Let any who are skeptical examine these noble flocks of genuine

Leicesters, and the grand flock of Lincolns belonging to William Oliver, Avonbank, Ont., and some of his competitors, and their eyes will be opened to the folly and error expressed in the quotations given above. There are, doubtless, men who have crossed these two breeds in Ontario, and thus ruined the flock for pure-bred purposes. But likewise have hundreds of flocks been spoiled in England. If this state of things also exists in Britain, then why should buyers be pointed away from Ontario breeders, and advised to buy in England. In an early issue of the ADVOCATE we will give the points of each of these breeds, and also illustrations of specimen animals.

Central Canada Fair, Ottawa.

It is with great pleasure we notice the improvement of this, one of Canada's great fairs, which shows in a marked degree the results of the very efficient management and untiring energy of President Magee and his worthy associates. It is also a most pleasing fact that it may, with propriety, be called, as it should be, an agricultural exhibition. This most important feature should never be lost sight of by the management of fairs, as the prosperity of our country depends on the success of our agriculturists. There is one matter of great importance that seems to have been either overlooked or ignored by all fair officials, namely, that there existed in this Province other similar institutions, and that the greatest good to the largest number is to be reached by the harmony and mutual aid of all. We sincerely hope that never, in the history of Canada, will there be such another clashing of dates as was this year experienced, and that before another fair season rolls around means will be adopted to remove all such unnecessary hindrances, and that next year we shall, both visitors, exhibitors and officials, reap the beneficial results of such a judicious course.

Some of the papers which make their agricultural columns a catchpenny, must have been very erroneously informed in reference to the stock brought here from Toronto exhibition, as numbers of the successful prize-winning flocks and herds were here, representing at least some of the cream of the Industrial. The great increase in exhibits over all previous years was a very noticeable and encouraging feature, in which the display in the horticultural hall and the agricultural products figured very largely. Horses and cattle were so numerous that additional buildings had to be erected for their accommodation. Sheep, in the different classes, were numerous and well represented, as were also the pigs, dogs, and poultry, although the latter was somewhat fewer than last year.

The implements and machinery reflected great credit on their manufacturers, and the display in the Main Building was simply magnificent. Space will not permit a detailed list of all the many new and useful articles, or the special mention of all the prize-winning stock, but among those who carried off some of the laurels are Robert Ness, Howick, P. Q., who showed a number of prize-winning Clydesdales; Thomas Good, Richmond, Ont., who, among other prizes taken, received first for stallion and three of his taken under one year. Thos. Carlisle, Chester-ville, was also a successful competitor in the heavy horse classes, as was also John Clark, Ottawa, who took the gold medal and diploma for Clydesdale stallion. In the standard-bred horses,

J. Erratt, Ottawa, was most successful, and among the Hackney and Roadster classes may be found the names of W. H. Davis, E. Cardinal, H. J. Bate, M. Beauvais and C. McMorrow, of Ottawa. In Percherons the prizes were divided between Campbell & Dobbin, Lachute Mills, and P. Mackintosh, Karrs Bridge.

Among the cattle W. C. Edwards & Co., Rockland, Ont., made a fine show in Shorthorns and Ayrshires, also Shropshire sheep and Berkshire pigs, being very successful in all the different classes. Fine breeding stock may be procured from their flocks and herds. Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, Montreal, exhibited a choice herd of Guernseys of high merit. In laying the foundation of this herd, Mr. Abbott selected the best animals procurable, at great expense. His present fine stock reflect great credit on the skill and care of their owner. The excellent qualities of this celebrated breed must bring them into more general use. Messrs. J. & W. Russell, Richmond Hill, Ont., had eleven head of fine Shorthorns, which took seven first prizes and five seconds, two diplomas and gold medal for best herd. Mr. E. W. Judah, of Hillhurst, P. Q., whose fine Herefords were a special feature, won all the prizes given in this class, also both the diplomas given for special beef herds, any breed, viz., one for over and one for under four years. Fletcher Bros., Oxford Mills, had fifteen head of Holsteins, winning a number of prizes, including first and diploma for bull, any age, as well as first for best herd, and diploma. As usual, J. Drummond, Petite Cote, had a fine show of Ayrshires, winning a full share of prizes. T. Brown, also of Petite Cote, had a number of fine imported animals of this breed. Among other successful exhibitors might also be mentioned, Mr. Joseph Yuill, Carleton Place, Ont., and Robert Robertson, Howick, P. Q., who won second place with his splendid bull Golden Guinnie. Mr. W. J. Rudd, Eden Mills, whose fourteen head of Devons took six first and seven second prizes and diploma, made certainly a very fine exhibit. The fine herd of Jerseys, owned by Wm. Reburn, of St. Anne de Bellevue, which won the first at Toronto in the dairy test, took the majority of prizes in their class. In the Galloways T. McCrae, Guelph, and in Polled-Angus, Dr. Craik, Montreal, took all the prizes in their respective classes.

In Cotswold sheep C. W. Neville, Newburgh, took nearly all the prizes. He was also very successful with Lincolns and Southdowns, and took, in all, fifteen prizes on what sheep he exhibited, numbering twenty-three in all. In the Leicester class E. Sommers, St. Mary's, Ont., won the majority of the prizes. R. Shaw, Glanworth Station, and Forth & Sons, Glen Buell, were also successful competitors in this class. In Lincolns W. Oliver, Avonbank, took the lead, closely followed by R. Shaw and C. W. Neville, while in Southdowns R. Shaw, Glanworth Station, won nearly all the prizes. In Shropshire Downs the most successful exhibitors were Sheriff Hagar, L'Original, and W. C. Edwards, Rockland. In Oxford and Hampshire Downs may be found most frequently among the winners the names of P. Acknell, Teeswater, Ont., A. Gilmore, Huntingdon, and J. Kemp, Hazledean, who took the special prize of an imported Shropshire ram, given by Mr. John Dyke, Liverpool, England, for the best pen of ten sheep any breed. In the Merinos R. Bailey, Union, Ont., took the principal prizes; L. D. Lloyd, Union, and R. Shaw were also winners in this class.

In Berkshire pigs W. C. Edwards, Sheriff Hagar, A. Stewart and J. C. Bedlow were the principal prize-takers, and in the Yorkshire, Chester Whites, etc., C. W. Neville and W. Allan were the most successful.