



BALLY GARTON - 143 - (7348) IMP.

Three-year-old Hackney stallion. Winner of first prize and sweepstakes at Ottawa and first at Toronto Exhibitions, 1902. Sire Garton Duke of Connaught (3009), dam Lady Allington (6837). IMPORTED AND OWNED BY ROBERT NESS & SONS, HOWICK, QUE.

"Snap-shots of British Agriculture."

THE DUBLIN HORSE SHOW.

One of the outward and visible signs of the Royal Dublin Society, whose particular province is the improvement of Irish agriculture, in which movement it is greatly helped by the Farmer's Gazette and the Glasnevin school, is the annual horse show. Probably at no other place in the world is to be seen such a collection of the saddle type of light horses. Ireland is the place of weight-carrying hunters—horses with a bit of blood, lots of substance and plenty of stamina. The show is held annually at Balls Bridge, and is the Mecca of smartly-gowned women and well-groomed men from all parts of the British Isles. This show is under cover to a great extent and is rendered a very enjoyable function by means of good bands and arrangements that are carried out to the letter. A correct catalogue and timetable assist the visitor to enjoy the show and incidentally save his time. Not only so, but on the second day a pamphlet containing the names and numbers of the winners is to be had gratis, which is a great convenience. Every animal is numbered and its identity is easily arrived at whether it is in its stall or on parade, which is more than can be said for the majority of our transatlantic shows. Graduated prices are the rule: first day, 5s.; the time of the judging; second day, 2s. 6d.; subsequent days, 2s. and 1s. No special attempt is made beyond the jumping competitions to amuse the crowd, which is a large one. Good-looking women do not consider it immodest, which it is not, to criticise a stallion and discuss its good points and breeding; altogether there is an intelligent interest shown which is a source of pleasure to lovers of live-stock.

The remount question and the question of remount breeding is of some little interest to Canadians, and it may be assumed that the basis of the successful breeding of remounts is the employment of Thoroughbred sires with plenty of bone, good middles, well-defined muscles and abundant stamina. Such horses are being used to some extent in Ireland, judging by the exhibits—one does not find evidence of the use of short, chubby-necked Hackney and Coach stallions. Fortunately so, too, and if one were disposed to be hypercritical, it might be a few of the horses are slack in the back and a shade weak over the kidneys. The stallions suitable for getting weight-carrying hunters and other half-bred horses were a good lot, and were remarkably well brought out considering the age which some of them carried. Veterans of thirteen to eighteen years were there, whose only sign of approaching senility is a tendency to droop in the back, and in some the scars of the cauterizing iron. The first-prize horse was the chestnut thirteen-year-old Red Prince 2nd, a short-backed, compact horse, with plenty of bone, muscle and middle, and a loin that would rival a Christmas steer. Royal Mask, a chestnut twelve-year-old and a former winner, was second; a big horse, with well-laid, sloping shoulders and plenty of muscle, but the appearance of less wearing character than his successful rival. Fortuno, by Isonomy, a seventeen-year-old chestnut, and a strong-coupled horse, was third, being followed by Astrologer, a seventeen-year-old son of Her-

mit, the celestial student showing a slackness in the back, although a well-muscled, strong-quartered horse. The judges evidently went for substance, compactness and quality, and thus piloted themselves safely into port through a large class of forty-six entries, and avoided the many rocks on which many a judge's reputation is wrecked. In addition, ten £50 prizes were offered—similar to the King's premiums, the conditions being the same. Stallions competing must pass the veterinary examination; must serve tenant farmers' mares for the ensuing season at a fee not to exceed five guineas (\$25), and if a stallion has been at stud, evidence of fruitfulness must be produced. The latter condition is one that the Canadian Horse

Breeders' Associations might well insist on, as it is well known to the writer that at a prominent show in Western Canada the winner for the last three years has been notorious as never having gotten a colt. The Thoroughbred yearling colts were a good lot, the winner, Christian De Wet, a grandson of Isonomy, being a very deep-chested colt, strong over the kidneys, and with his hocks well let down, long, clean-cut neck evidencing his breeding, his closest rival being a half-brother, a breedily-looking, strong-backed colt, although with more daylight under him than his successful competitor. The third-prize colt, a grandson of Patriarch, was very breedily in his type and looks like a race horse. His well-laid, sloping shoulders, great length of muscle from hip to hock, and gun-like finish made him a very attractive youngster. The others were not remarkable, although components of a good class. Canada could well do with a few of such aged and yearling horses.

The number of hunters was so great as to be almost bewildering. Weight-carriers up to 15 stone, 14 to 15 stone, 13 to 14 stone, and so on, were as plentiful as blackbirds in harvest time. A few road horses, cobs, etc., were there, making up a total of over twelve hundred and thirty, as the Canadian would term them, light horses.

The jumping competitions are to the horse show what the block test is to the fat stock show, being a sort of court of last resort. The jumps are bank and ditch, ditch and bank, stone wall not less than four feet high, double bank, water jump, and the hurdle, not less than four feet high. It is doubtful if a prettier part than the general enclosure at Balls Bridge is to be found in any show ground.

Tacked on to the horse show is an exhibit of sheep, which, while not specially remarkable, contains good specimens of several of the breeds. The Border Leicesters were a good lot, the first and second prize aged rams and the first-prize pen of shearling ewes being very good. The writer had, for the first time, an opportunity of seeing the Roscommon sheep, a very deep, strong-boned, coarse sheep, with a very plain, straight wool. Not a prepossessing sheep, judged by high-class mutton ideals, but probably suited to the locality after

which it is named. The Shrops were very fair, the Hampshire Downs being a good lot; the Oxfords just the reverse, if we except the first-prize pen of ewe lambs.

One cannot leave this show, or the Irish capital, without being struck by the jarvey-driven cars, some of whose steeds show traces of Thoroughbred ancestry and whose pace is far removed from that of the snail. One cannot truthfully say "they've been there" unless a ride on the side-seated jaunting car was part of the programme.

INTER PRIMOS.

STOCK.

The London Exhibition.

Ontario's Western Fair, held at London, Sept. 12th to 20th, was this year more than usually successful. Being favored with good weather and there being no other large fair held in the Province in the same week, the attendance of visitors was much greater than in the previous year, and there was a larger entry of live stock than usual in nearly all classes. Single judges officiated in all live-stock classes.

HORSES.

The horse barns at the Western Fair grounds, London, were again pretty well filled this year. A good deal of the space, however, was occupied by members of the racing fraternity, most of which were unfit for and unknown to the showing, while in many sections pretty fair entries were made, the standard of excellence being quite equal or superior to the exhibits of other shows. Had it not been, however, for the entries of two or three enterprising breeders and importers, the competition in some classes would not have amounted to much. With whatever commendable features this department can claim, candor compels us to say it was by no means what should be seen at the only large exhibition of Western Ontario. From our observation this year, we are persuaded that the management of the horse department of this show is open to severe criticism. Whoever is directly responsible for its management, we, at present, know not, but it is certain that before satisfaction can be had, a change somewhere must take place. To begin with, the catalogue called for the judging to commence on Monday, Sept. 15th, at 2 o'clock, and in compliance with that announcement, horse owners had their stock trimmed and in readiness, but the specific call came not, the result being that with a great rush, all the heavy draft horses, and most of the lighter ones, had to be judged on Tuesday. This was satisfactory neither to exhibitors nor farmers who came out to see and learn the best that was being bred. It would be much better, where an exhibition is being held for at least one week, if the judging of the different classes were extended over, say, three days, thus giving interested parties a chance to examine most of the animals when on the line and affording the horsemen more time to give the final touches to their favorites before going out for inspection. Where two classes are being judged in the big ring at a point from which no one can examine a horse, and other two in the



IMP. CECIL 3352.

Two-year-old Clydesdale stallion. Winner of first prize and sweepstakes, Ottawa Exhibition, 1902. IMPORTED AND OWNED BY ROBERT NESS & SONS, HOWICK, QUE.