

The Ontario Provincial Fat Stock and Dairy Show.

The winter show held in the City of Brantford, Nov. 30th to Dec. 2nd, was the most successful event of the kind ever held up to that time in America. The number of entries exceeded those of any former fat stock show held in Canada, and the quality of the stock shown was of a higher standard, judged from the standpoint of a breeder or a butcher. From year to year our stockmen bring out for exhibition a larger proportion of animals conforming to the type and carrying the quality of flesh which best meets the requirements of our best markets. The result is a measure of uniformity in size, quality and finish which does credit to the intelligence and skill of our stockmen, and we gladly give them in this connection the honor due to those who have done well. The attendance of visitors was considerably larger than at any former meeting of the Association. The holding of the annual meetings of two of the American Sheep Breeders' Associations in Brantford on the days of the show brought a number of the leading breeders from the United States, who were delighted and profited by what they saw and heard. It is, we think, a pardonable pride we indulge when we express gratification at the admission of representative stockmen from a country whose people are known, as a rule, to have "a good conceit of themselves," that in the matter of stock shows Canada "takes the cake." The officers and committeemen having charge of the arrangements for the show deserve unstinted praise for the satisfactory manner in which it was conducted, and the local committee of Brantford men who co-operated with them proved themselves worthy of all praise for the willing and hearty work they did in helping to make the show a success.

The judges were well chosen, and did honest, faithful and efficient work. We may well congratulate ourselves on being able to secure the services of judges who know the best type of animals, and who have the courage and independence to "hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may." These men do grand work in raising the standard of quality in our stock, and are real educators in this line. The admitted success of these shows along practical lines is clearly due to the fact that intelligent, practical breeders and feeders are at the helm on the Board of Management. The judges of the cattle classes were Thos. Crawford, M. P. P., Toronto; James Smith, Brantford; and T. G. Collwill, Whitby, Ont.

THE CATTLE.

As the prize list is published in full in this issue, we review only the leading features of the show.

A large majority of the cattle shown were, as usual, Shorthorns and their grades, but there was a considerable representation of Galloways, Polled Angus, and Devons; and though only two Herefords were shown, they were, as usual, good ones—thick-fleshed, smooth, and full of good quality, one of them winning easily first place in her class, in competition with Polled Angus as well as Herefords.

The Shorthorn class was headed by three grand white steers, under three years and over two, which were awarded the three prizes, the first going to Lord Minto, owned by Matt. Wilson, of Fergus, and sired by Sittyton Chief, a bull of Cruickshank breeding, bred by Jas. I. Davidson, and got by imp. Hospodar. Lord Minto was certainly the best finished bullock in the show, combining weight and quality with smoothness in a high degree, and from the start was considered a candidate for the championship, with the odds in his favor. We doubt if a better has been shown in recent years. J. R. Snyder, Humber, showed the second and third prize steers, both bred by J. M. Gardhouse, Highfield, the second prize going to Highfield Rover, a steer of fine type, with a grand back, smoothly turned, and carrying a high-class quality of flesh, and only needed a couple of hundred pounds more of it to make him a strong claimant for the highest place. Here, again, blood tells: Sired by the imp. Collynie-bred Guardsman, and out of a daughter of imp. Verbera, he is almost full brother in blood to Saint Valentine, the great American show bull, whose dam was one of the first prize herd, open to all beef breeds, at the World's Columbian Exhibition and could hardly fail to be an exceptionally good individual. His stall mate, Windham, by the same sire, and out of Rose's Fancy, traces to imported Margaret, a first prize winner at the Provincial Fair forty years ago, and which sold for \$750 at Mr. Stone's sale in 1856. Windham is much like his half-brother in contour and quality, and we do not remember ever having seen a better trio of registered steers in competition.

H. Smith, of Hay, had the first prize one-year-old steer in his white Free Trade, by Abbottsford—a good sort, deep-bodied and well-fleshed, and one that will probably come again, carrying more of the same quality. Oke & Sons, Alvinston, won first in the section for steers under a year with

Scottish Leader, and the same firm had the first prize cow over three years in Red Rose, by Roy Vincent.

One of the very best things in the Shorthorn class, and, indeed, in the whole show, was Fried & Sons' first prize registered two-year-old heifer, Roan Lilly, by Lord Abbott, a son of the famous imported Indian Chief. She is low-down, broad set, and smoothly fleshed, with wonderful chest, crops and heart-girth, and is full of quality from stem to stern. Oke & Sons' first prize yearling heifer is also exceedingly well developed for her age, and measures up to a high standard.

Herefords and Polled Angus showed together in one class. In the section for two-year-olds, John Brown, of Galt, won first money with Fairy 2nd, a Hereford heifer of grand character, well finished, and furnished with high-priced flesh, being exceedingly thick on her loins and ribs, smoothly turned, and of excellent quality. In the section for yearlings a remarkable steer was shown by Walter Hall, Washington—a Polled Angus named Robin, and a model butcher's beast, blocky, thick-fleshed, and full of the best kind of flesh. He should fill the bill for the greatest amount of high-class meat in the smallest superficies.

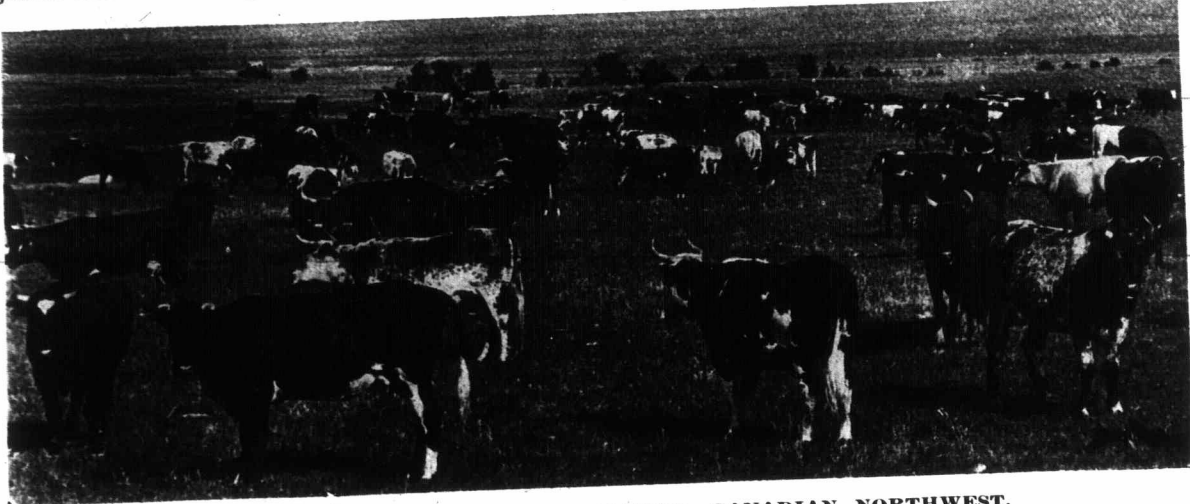
Galloways and Devons were grouped together, Col. D. McCrae, Guelph, showing the former most largely, and R. R. Rudd, Eden Mills, the latter, the Devons winning first and second in class for steers or heifers two and under three years. T. Lloyd Jones, Burford, had the first prize yearling heifer, Blanche of the Oaks, a Galloway of typical character, symmetrical and well-fleshed, and covered with a beautiful coat of lustrous, curly hair. Mr. McCrae came to the front in calves under a year with Rance 13th, a beautiful heifer; and W. J. Rudd got into first place in the section for cows over three years with his grand cow Maude, winner of numerous honors in other contests.

Grades and Crosses.—This is always one of the most interesting classes in a fat stock show, and for the present was no exception. In the section for two-year-old steers was found one of the most interesting numbers in the catalogue in Perfection, a rich roan, bred, owned and exhibited by John

for this competition, only about half that number pulled out, and though fully one-half of these were good enough to rank in first-class company in any country, it soon became apparent that the contest was narrowed down to two steers. These were Matt. Wilson's registered Shorthorn Lord Minto and John Campbell's grade Shorthorn Perfection. The jury weighed the evidence carefully, and held a protracted consultation, but there was no disposition on the part of the interested onlookers to gamble on the verdict. If a vote of the breeders had been taken, we fancy it is probable that the white steer would have won, but the majority of judges evidently viewed the question from a consumer's standpoint—which was quite right, according to the rules of the show—and so Perfection was declared the champion of 1898.

SHEEP.

The exhibit of sheep seems to have reached a place where we might almost say there is little room for improvement, as for a number of years the same exhibitors, with a few exceptions, come out to try conclusions. Among these are undoubtedly the best breeders and feeders in Canada, who possess the ambition to hold acquired ground or to reach a higher standing, so that those who visit the Provincial Fat Stock Show enjoy the privilege of seeing the best specimens of the best breeds of sheep represented in Canada brought out in perfection of form. Owing to the absence of a few customary exhibitors, viz., the late J. G. Snell and Messrs. Rutherford, the entry fell from 292 in 1897 to 275 the present year. The number of sheep shown, however, was perhaps nearer the entries made than at any previous Provincial Fat Stock Show, as it was the rare exception to find an entry missing from the ring. In most classes there appears to be unanimity in regard to what constitutes the ideal type for today's requirements in the final product and in breeding characteristics, the less numerous reared sorts going on in the right direction. As indicating early-maturing qualities, a pair of not overly fat Dorset March lambs were noted weighing from 150 to 160 lb., and Suffolk May lambs that had not been rushed weighing from 117 to 125 lbs. In breed type and fitting the grades and crosses were a strong class also. The judges were: For Cotswolds, Hardy Shore, Glanworth, and Jas. Gaunt, St. Helen's, Ont.; Lincolns and Leicesters, E. Parkinson, Eramosa, and Jas. Gaunt, St. Helen's; Oxfords, Geo. McKerrrow, Sussex, Wis., and Professor Curtiss, Iowa Agricultural College; Shropshires and Southdowns, Hy. Arkell, Teeswater, and J. C. Duncan, Lewiston, N. Y.; Dorset Horns, Hampshire and Suffolks, Messrs. Duncan and Arkell; grades and crosses, Hardy Shore and Hy. Arkell. In the sweepstakes competition for best sheep of the show the one-judge system was introduced. The judge was Mr.



RANGE CATTLE, SOUTHERN ALBERTA, CANADIAN NORTHWEST.

Campbell, of Woodville, sired by a white son of Old Indian Chief and of Gerlaugh's Sun Ray. With his strong, straight back and loin, well sprung ribs, long, level quarters, and freedom from the least suspicion of paunchiness, he presented a model for a butcher's beast—one that would be sure to kill out a high percentage of first-class meat and a minimum of offal, though from a breeder's standpoint he is a little too far from the ground, or in other words, has too much daylight under him. James Leask, of Greenbank, had a right good one for second place in the roan Jack, by Moneyfuffel Lad, the great champion bull, now owned by Captain Robson, of Ilderton. He has a grandly fleshed back, well-arched ribs, packed with firm flesh, and is a typical Booth bullock, with very little waste about him. Walter Robson & Son, Ayr, furnished the third prize winner in a Hereford grade of fine form and quality. Leask had a good one for first place in the section for yearling steers—another son of the sweepstakes bull Moneyfuffel Lad, who was also the sire of the first prize steer under a year, Clinker, a red, and a rattling good one, true in his lines, full in all parts, and of excellent quality. It is probable that he has an interesting future before him.

Jas. Bowman, Guelph, found the first prize cow in his grade Angus, a lengthy, smooth, well-fleshed animal. Two-year-old heifers made a capital show, and Leask's Lady a clear winner. She is one of the best of the year, wonderful in her depth and rotundity, smooth and firm in her flesh. She makes a model to go by, and can hardly be improved on. The same owner had a choice winner in the yearling class in the roan free-martin, Susan, yet another of the get of Moneyfuffel Lad, who is proving a sire of winners in a field where none but the best can win.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

The sensation of this department of the show was, as usual, the contest for the championship, when all the first prize animals in each class came into competition. Seldom, if ever, in the history of these shows in Canada has a stronger list of contestants entered for the coveted honor than on this occasion. While there were twenty-one animals in the various classes, and those

Jas. Tolton, of Walkerton, and his decision seemed to give general satisfaction. He is not only a fair-minded judge, but his favorite breed is the Oxford, which stands perhaps nearest of any midway between the long-wools and medium-wools. The line of competitors included many of the first prize winners in the show, which, in a sense, made the contest a battle of the breeds, as each breed represented had well-nigh a model specimen of its sort. As was the case in several former years, a South-down (yearling ewe) captured the trophy. In regard to his decision in the ewe lamb section of the Oxford Down class, Judge McKerrrow, of Wisconsin, introduced an innovation by stating to the audience the reasons for the decision. First had been given to a strong, muttoney, well-covered entry, and second to a lamb nearer the Shrop. type. Mr. McKerrrow explained that a typical Oxford would have been about midway between the two, but the lambs in the section appearing to hold that position were weak in one or more points. The size and color of ear, carriage of head, and strength, form of leg, character of fleece and skin were discussed and compared in the sheep drawn up. The extraordinary demands upon our space in this Christmas issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE prevent our reviewing in detail the various classes, but the winnings are all recorded in the complete prize list published elsewhere.

THE SWINE.

This department of the show increases in interest year by year as a result of the expanding market for Canadian bacon and the discussion which has taken place in regard to quality of product required. It is in this department that the greatest increase of entries has been made, totalling 338 this year, or over 100 in advance of last year and nearly 200 in excess of those of 1896, when the number was 150. The most noticeable feature of the swine show as compared with that of former years is the absence of big fat hogs, while medium-sized, young and fleshy pigs prevail and predominate. The Association has wisely limited the age of the oldest in their prize list to six months, while the bulk of the best prizes are offered for those under 9 months, liberal special prizes being offered for pigs of each breed of the weight required by the export bacon trade, with the understanding that large and keen competition has