

fine one, but it found a close rival in one shown by Hastings Bros., Crosshill. John Hunter, Wyoming, had some good sheep present, and won some good prizes. They were of right type, but might have stood a little higher fitting. The exhibits of A. G. H. Luxton, Milton West, and of Jas. Robertson & Sons, Milton, are also worthy of commendation.

HAMPSHIRE AND SUFFOLKS.—The Hampshires and Suffolks showed together. The Suffolks were shown by Jas. Bowman, Guelph. They were good sheep, but only in field condition, and, consequently, did not stand before the better-fitted Hampshires. In the yearling wether class, however, Mr. Bowman was forward with two good sheep, and won first and second. The Hampshires were of extra quality, typical sheep, and well brought out. They were shown by John Kelly, Shakespeare, and Teller Bros., Paris. Mr. Kelly's sheep were in a little better flesh, had a little more size than those of the other flock, and succeeded in winning a rather larger share of the prizes. His ewe lamb is worthy of special mention.

GRADES OR CROSSES.—The unwieldiness of these classes undoubtedly detracted somewhat from the interest in and usefulness of this exhibit. Moreover, the judge's task seems to be rather an unreasonable one, when he is required to pass upon grades of all breeds and descriptions in the same class. In awarding a championship premium, one would expect the problem of selecting the winner from the line-up of long-wools and short-wools, but it would try the nerves of any judge to be challenged with this difficulty in every instance. The breeders, almost without dissent, would welcome a separation of the long-wools from the short-wools in any but the championship classes, even though such a change would necessitate that the sections be fewer in each class. It is hoped that another year some such change may be made in the prize-list. There was a large entry in almost all the classes in this section, and on the whole the individuals were of exceptional merit. Space will not permit an extended report. John Campbell probably made the best showing, with some very perfectly-fitted sheep, but in a number of instances other flocks succeeded in getting into first money. In this connection may be mentioned E. Brien & Son, Ridgetown; L. Parkinson, Eramosa, and John Orr, Galt. The many other entries were exceptionally worthy ones, and deserve recognition.

In the pure-bred sections, J. C. Duncan, Lewiston, N. Y., placed the ribbons on the Shropshires, Dorsets, Southdowns, Oxfords, Suffolks and Hampshires. On the Cotswolds, Leicesters and Lincolns, James Snell, Clinton, placed the awards. These two, with W. J. Arkell, Teeswater, united to select the winners in the Grades and Crosses. The judging was fair, impartial and conscientious, and only in one or two instances was there any appearance of dissatisfaction. It is agreed that this was one of the greatest sheep shows Guelph has ever seen. It speaks well for the status of sheep husbandry in Ontario. This has been a record year for sheep sales in the Province, and it is believed that the coming few years will not disappoint the high hopes of the present one. Sheepmen are enthusiastic at the prospect, and the better informed encourage a strengthening generally through the Province of this phase of the stock business.

SWINE.

There was some keen competition in swine. The number of pigs was somewhat smaller than last year, on account of a change in the regulations, limiting the number of entries by each breeder in the export bacon classes to three, and reducing the number of pigs in each entry from three to two.

BERKSHIRES were shown by Douglas Thompson, Woodstock; Snell & Lyons, Snelgrove; J. Cowan, Donegal; John Kelly, Shakespeare; E. Brien & Son, Ridgetown, and W. J. Rudd, Eden Mills. Some excellent specimens were shown, lengthy, smooth shouldered, firm fleshed and conforming well to the bacon type. The bulk of the best prizes fell to Mr. Thompson, an ambitious young breeder, showing for the first time at a Provincial fair, whose exhibit was certainly very creditable.

YORKSHIRES.—The strongest class of the swine department was Yorkshires. Never before was there such a uniformly excellent showing of the "Long Whites." Yorkshire breeders certainly have their business down to a science, and a large number of pigs of almost perfect bacon type made no easy task for the judges. Exhibitors were Jos. Featherston & Son, Streetsville; Jas. Wilson & Sons, Fergus; J. E. Brethour, Burford; R. J. Kerr, Mimosa; John Elliott, Morden; Chas. Currie, Morriston, and R. F. Duck & Son, Port Credit.

IN TAMWORTHS the well-known breeder, A. C. Hallman, of Breslau, was out against sharp competition from D. Douglas & Sons, Mitchell, and Chas. Currie, of Morriston.

IN CHESTER WHITES two breeders were represented, W. E. Wright, of Glanworth, and D. De Courcey, of Bernholm.

It took the judges the best part of an afternoon to decide the class of two pure-bred export bacon hogs. Eleven pairs were placed, and then there were splendid ones, good enough for firsts in some shows, left out of the list. The issue finally resulted in a clean sweep for the Yorkshires. First was finally awarded to Brethour, on what were subsequently the championship pigs, although J. Wilson & Sons crowded close with a strong second, and Duck & Son a good third.

GRADES AND CROSS-BREDS made an excellent

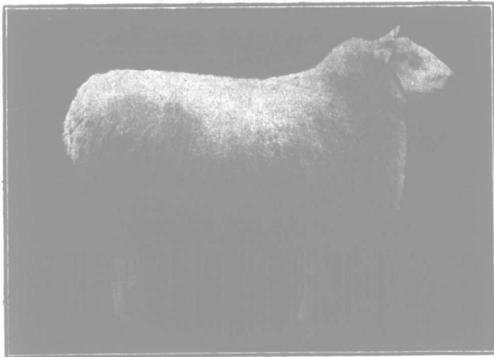
showing, the type being of unusually uniform character, and the prizes widely distributed among the exhibitors. The prize-list on another page tells the tale.

THE CARCASS COMPETITION.

In the dressed-beef carcasses of pure-breds, first prize went to a carcass of Aberdeen-Angus beef, shown by Jas. Bowman, Guelph, which when quartered exhibited a cross section of as beautifully marbled fat and lean as one could wish to see.

Almost every hog in the dressed-carcass competition would class as a number one Wiltshire side. The competition was very keen, and while the winners clearly deserved the ribbons they won, yet the degree of difference between the first prize and the commended carcasses was never before so small. In the pure-breds, nine of the prizes went to the Yorkshires, the remaining two, fifth and eleventh, going to the Tamworths. The leading honors in this class fell to J. E. Brethour, who won first, third and fourth prizes. His rating with the same pigs alive was first, fifth and eighth. The judges considered one of the pigs in his first-prize dressed pair to be the best carcass yet exhibited at the Winter Fair. Its mate was just a little underdone, but in every other respect was quite equal to its position. To this pair fell the sweepstakes prize. Jas. Wilson & Sons, who won second prize, had an unusually good pair of slightly overdone pigs. For the most part, however, the tendency was towards being under rather than overdone, and where discrepancies occurred between the live and dressed awards it was for the most part due to this fact, that pigs of particularly good type in every respect did not dress out quite so fat as they should have done.

In the grade classes, five of the prizes went to Yorkshire grades, the other two, fourth and seventh, going to Tamworth grades. The competition here was even closer than in the pure-bred class. The awards agreed very closely, though not exactly, with the prizes awarded to the live animals.



Leicester Paw, Sanford.

Champion World's Fair, St. Louis, and International, Chicago, 1904. Champion Lewis & Clark Centennial, Portland, Oregon, and Dominion Exhibition, New Westminster, 1905. Bred and owned by A. W. Smith, Maple Lodge, Ont.

The Shortage of Bacon Hogs.

About a dozen of the leading pork-packing houses in Ontario were represented in a deputation which waited upon Hon. Sidney Fisher a few days ago in connection with the alleged shortage of bacon hogs, of which so much has been heard of late. The minister promised consideration of all the matters presented. One of the difficulties confronting the pork-packing industry at present is the importation of hogs from the United States. Owing to the shortage in Canada of bacon hogs the packing-houses are obliged to purchase in Buffalo and other American centers. The American hogs, being largely fed on corn, are inferior in quality to the Canadian product, and it is feared the reputation the Canadian product has won for itself in the British market will suffer from the export of a poorer brand of bacon. The Department of Agriculture is securing information regarding the shortage of bacon hogs in Canada, with a view of remedying the serious condition of affairs.

During the Winter Fair at Guelph Hon. Mr. Fisher was assured by breeders that the packers could get plenty of hogs if they would pay the price and keep it steady. It was represented that there was risk of disease being imported with American hogs (in bond), and effective provision should certainly be made so that American pork could not be palmed off as Canadian bacon in the Old Country. "The Farmer's Advocate" is under the impression that Canadian hog production has not quite kept pace with the packing facilities, and we believe that a

good price and a staple price is necessary with high-priced food and labor.

In an afternoon discussion on the subject of marketing bacon hogs, at the Winter Fair, the following points were forcibly brought out, and, we believe, represent the conviction of the crowd which packed the auditorium:

The Canadian farmers will raise a larger and more dependable supply of hogs if assured of a steadier price. The attitude of the packers is that they will buy hogs at the lowest possible price; in periods of glut the farmer is subject to the inexorable law of competition, but when prices go up the packers escape the results of natural competition among themselves by having recourse to the supply of American hogs. They thus hold a whip in their hands which they use in supreme defiance of the rights and interests of farmers who are partners with them in the bacon industry. Not only this, but the importation of hogs threatens the health of our herds through the introduction and spread of diseases which are common in the corn belt, but from which we are comparatively or entirely free. Thousands of dollars have been spent to preserve the country from the ruinous effects of hog cholera, and on this score the country cannot afford to run risks. Finally, the curing of American thick, fat pork, some of it produced from hogs fed on the droppings of corn-fed cattle, jeopardizes the reputation of Canadian bacon, and not even a law compelling the branding of each ham and each side of bacon will completely remove the danger nor convince farmers that there is no likelihood of juggling on the part of packers.

The representative of the packers, at Guelph, pretended that the supply of hogs, as to quantity and kind, was a farmers' question purely, that so far as the packers were concerned they could make as much money packing thick, fat pork, if that were the kind produced in Canada, as in packing Wiltshire sides. This is sheer sophistry. The very existence of the Canadian pork industry depends on our supplying a kind of pork product which removes us from the stress of competition with the cheaper American product. Anything which endangers this particular trade is a menace to packers and farmers alike. Shut out American hogs, force the packers to treat co-operatively and sympathetically with farmers, looking to the maintenance of steadier values, and the hogs will be forthcoming. Competition will then regulate the number of factories and the business generally. The country expects the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Mr. Fisher, to take uncompromising ground to preserve the Canadian pork industry from the dangers by which it is now threatened.

GARDEN & ORCHARD.

Ilderton Co-operative Fruit Association.

The object of the Co-operative Fruit-growers' Association, of Ilderton, Ont., is for co-operation of the members (all fruit-growers) in packing, selling and shipping their fruit. The executive consists of five members: The president, secretary-treasurer (Mr. E. T. Caverhill), manager, and two directors. The conditions of membership are payment to sec-treas. of \$1.00 fee, and also agreeing to abide by the terms of the constitution.

The executive do all the necessary business, such as engaging and overseeing packers, purchasing barrels, selling output, making collections, shipping, etc. All expenses incurred in packing and shipping are charged pro rata, and are deducted from returns.

The Association at present has twenty-five members, comprising all the principal fruit-growers of that district. This season the Association shipped nothing but winter varieties (apples), as the crop of fall apples was almost nil.

It is an unwritten rule of the Association that all members shall spray thoroughly, viz., once early, before buds start, with copper sulphate, 6 pounds to 40 gallons water; once just before blossoms open with Bordeaux mixture and Paris green, according to formula; and at least twice after blossoms fall, at intervals of two weeks, and if codling moth is bad a third spraying will be necessary.

They have this season packed two grades of apples, No. 1 and No. 2, and their packers are instructed to put up a uniform grade, keeping well within the limits of the "Fruit Marks Act." The packing is all done inside. Each member is required to house his fruit as picked. Each member's number is put on the barrel along with the Association's brand.

The manager and secretary-treasurer are paid for time and expenses in shipping, etc. It cost