

take to study from a printed page. Their knowledge of farming is all empiric, and any progress they make comes from absorption. They do not know how to make use of the information conveyed in agricultural articles. They have not the remotest idea of the constituent elements in plants, and hence, of the fertilizing elements required to produce them. Occasionally these men are induced to subscribe for a first-class farm journal, and after a three months' or a year's trial they declare it is worth nothing. They simply do not know how to use it to advantage, and they do not read it."

The article further states that if agriculture were taught in rural schools there would be more readers of agricultural papers. The insight and knowledge obtained in this way by the future farmer will make him a closer student, and a patron of a wide-awake agricultural paper. There is a lot of sound truth in this line of reasoning. The successful farmer of the present day is the man who keeps himself thoroughly abreast of the times in so far as his own profession is concerned, and the only way to keep abreast of the times, in so far as agriculture is concerned, is to read an up-to-date weekly agricultural paper. No farmer to-day can afford to be without such a medium of receiving information regarding his own work and business. The weekly farm paper is more of a necessity in these days of keen competition and close margins to the farmer than it ever was, and the agriculturist who thinks he can get along without one had better take heed lest he come to the wall. The farmer of to-day must be a student. He must read and keep in touch with what is going on in the agricultural world around him.

## Provincial Fat Stock and Dairy Show

The Provincial Fat Stock and Dairy Show, which took place at Brantford on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week, was one of the finest, if not the finest, show of its kind ever held on this continent. In all the sections, dairy cows, beef cattle, sheep and swine, no such display of really choice stock has ever been seen in this country. The large and spacious quarters provided by the city of Brantford for holding the show in were filled with the best stock that this country can produce, and that is saying a great deal. The Province of Ontario is the leader in the breeding of all kinds of purebred stock on this continent, and the display at Brantford was convincing proof, if any were needed, that our breeders are strictly up-to-date in the quality of their stock and in the kind required to meet the markets to which they cater. True, there is always room for improvement in every line of business, and when a branch feels that it is at the top and there is nothing more to be gained its quality begins to recede, which, we hope, will never be the case with our live stock. However, a visitor to the show, and many of our American friends who were there were of this opinion also, would think that many of our breeds of sheep, cattle and swine had about reached perfection and could not be improved upon.

There was a larger number of Americans present than ever before, due, no doubt, to the American Oxford Down and Leicester Breeders' Associations holding their annual meetings in Brantford during the show. A specially attractive feature was the exhibit of bacon hogs, and the killing and dressing of a number of pigs to show their bacon qualities. This was a great educational feature in the show. In fact, the whole show is one of the best educational institutions that could come into any community, and the farmers in the Brantford district who missed visiting this year's exhibition have lost by it. A large number of them did do so, however, and a great many of Brantford's citizens, ladies as well as men, attended. On Thursday, which was the big day, over \$400 was taken in at the gate, by far the largest amount ever taken on any one day at any previous show held under the same auspices. The arrangements for exhibitors was excellent, and the whole show reflects great credit upon its management. A full report of the show with the prizes awarded in the different classes is given below. Reports of the meetings in the Opera House and the breeders' meetings will appear in next week's issue.

### CATTLE.

So eager were the visitors about the cattle ring to see the animals that they crowded over the barriers, and all efforts of the President and Directors were unable to keep a clear space for the judges to do their work. There were seventy-five head of beef cattle shown and thirty-six dairy cows. Of the beef animals thirty were grades and forty-five were in the pure-bred classes. These were sixteen Galloways, fifteen Shorthorns, ten Polled Angus, three Devons and one Hereford. The Galloways, while the most numerous, were not in fat stock show condition, being only moderately fat—good butchers' cattle—no more, but in their black woolly coats made a fine exhibit.

**SHORTHORNS**—The Shorthorns were the feature of the show, and, while there were but three or four plums, the bulk were good animals—thick-fleshed and meaty. The Grades, with two or three exceptions, were all Shorthorns, and there are few experts who could have separated the classes of purebred and grades. The dates this year are from the first of September, which conforms to the dates fixed by the great fall fairs, so that an animal calved on or after September 1st, 1897, was eligible to show as a calf under one year old, while in reality it might now be 15 months. In the class for steers under 3 years old, three Shorthorns faced the judges. All were pure white. First went to Lord Minto, by Sittyton Chief, 17060, shown by Mr. Wilson, of Fergus, Wellington county. This was one of the best animals in the show—well grown, thickly and evenly fleshed, with good quarters and grand rib—a finished beeve. He was eventually the runner up for the sweepstakes, and many good butchers thought him the best animal in the show. In yearlings three roans and a white were shown. J. Oke & Sons, Alvington, won with a good roan, son of Sir Walter 17,442. He was the heaviest in the ring with a good front and thick rolls of fat on the rib. Second went to Harry Smith, Hay, for a white son of Abbotsford, 19446, a much smaller animal, somewhat younger, but very neat and nice. Mr. Smith was sweepstakes winner last year with a brother of this steer. In calves there were only two shown—one a big roan, son of Scottish Leader 21,658, shown by J. Oke & Sons. This was a September calf, and so well had he been forced that a cattle buyer coming to the ring during the judging asked, "Is that a three-year old?" In the cow and heifer classes for Shorthorns there were only two in each class, perhaps the most notable animal being Roan Lily, by Lord Abbot 20707, shown by J. Freid & Sons, Roseville, and a very good heifer. She was grand above, with plenty of width and very evenly fat.

**OTHER PURE BREEDS**—Herefords and Polled Angus showed together—the only Hereford in the show captured first place in two-year-olds. This animal shown by John Brown, of Galt, was well-fitted—a trifle patchy but showing a good back and a grand loin. In yearlings, Walter Hall had a neat compact block in the Polled Angus Robin, sire Lucratus, 146. This animal was a winner at the fall shows and easily repeated here his former winning. He is well-ribbed and the blockiest animal in the show on very short legs. H. McDougall, Guelph, won with Hyman's Lassie, 22607, in the Cow class with James Bowman second and third. In the Galloway Devon group W. J. Rudd, Eden Mills, won with aged cow and first and second for two-year-olds. The former a big cow and the latter were fatted though not very smooth animals. They looked, with large horns and long legs, quite different from the shaggy, short-legged Galloways. In yearlings, Thomas Lloyd Jones & Sons, Burford, won with Blanche of the Oaks, 13573, a nice yearling with grand coat of hair. In calves, D. McCrae, Guelph, won first and second with a neat pair of black beauties. Allan and Robt Shaw, Brantford, won several prizes, notably second place for Countess of High Park, 10803, a short-legged cow, with rich marked meat claimed by all the Galloways.

**GRADES AND CROSSES.**—This was the feature of the show. Seven two-year-old steers faced the judges. John Campbell, Woodville, the well known Shropshire breeder, came first with Perfection, by a white son of the well known Scotch bull, Indian Chief. This is a sweet steer, not over ripe, with a great, wide top, and fine front. Not only did he come out winner in his class, but he also won the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' prize, and also the championship of the show. The next was the yearling class—animals now just about two years old. They were a fine, level lot—the beef now required; the kind that pays the farmer and pleases the eater. They are beyond the baby-beef stage, and, while the meat may not be as firm as if they were kept another year it is more juicy and palatable. The profit and quick returns in marketing such two-year-olds should commend itself to every feeder; weighing from 1,200 to 1,400 lbs. they are just the article for the best city trade. James Leask, Greenbank, came first and third with animals sired by Moneyfuffel Lad, the first prize white and the third a very smooth-skinned roan. Thos. Russell & Son, Exeter, came second with a red and white, very thick-fleshed. In the calves, these were the first reds seen in the show, as it happened a solid red lot. James Leask had an animal of great promise, a very good calf. Deep, very deep; as we usually have with great depths, a trifle flat on the ribs. In the cows, the Polled Angus shown by James Bowman, Guelph, easily beat the Shorthorns, though there were some good ones of the red, white, and roan. In the heifers, James Leask captured both the red ribbons in very good classes. Second in the two-year-olds went to J. Freid & Son for a white heifer, and the yearling second place to John Campbell.

**CHAMPIONSHIP.**—Seldom has there been seen a more exciting finish than the contest for the championship of the show. Nine of the most likely first-prize winners lined up. Two polled blacks and the solitary white-faced Hereford. Two whites and four roans, or red and white and roan. The sides of the ring were lined with eager watchers, many ladies in the group, and the crowd so great they had but a slim chance of seeing what was being done. After going carefully over the lot, three were retained and the others sent in. Then came the tug of war, and a close contest sent John Campbell's steer the ribbon.

### SHEEP.

The exhibit of sheep was one of the best ever seen at the show. Last year the quality of the exhibit was good, so that it was difficult to improve upon it very much. The demand for sheep this fall has been large, and many exhibitors had disposed of good sheep that would have shown up well in their classes. Nevertheless the exhibit