

EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL LIVE STOCK EXPOSITION

CANADA WINS GRAND CHAMPIONSHIPS IN CATTLE AND SHEEP

EXCELLENCE EXCELLED, WONDERS ECLIPSED, is the word from the Eighth International Live Stock Exhibition, held last week in Dexter Park Amphitheatre, Union Stock Yards, Chicago. The International is a perpetual revelation, a phenomenal success from the start, each succeeding year turns a more impressive page. In scale and quality of exhibits it annually sets new records, which only itself can surpass—surpass them it does, however, with certainty and ease. Record-breaking rings are successively outclassed as though they had been mere State or County exhibits. Champions of previous years go down like chaff before the wind. High-class show-yard material of eight years since is hardly looked at now, while the second-raters have been almost eliminated from the stalls. The International early won continental acclaim as the climax of American Live Stock Exhibitions. It is the prospective goal of every ambitious exhibitor, the cynosure of all stockmen's eyes. All paths of success for showmen lead to the International. It is the American exhibitor's centering point—the objective towards which all hopes verge. This explains in a large measure its unparalleled success and growth. Official returns registered an increased entry in every department over 1906, the total number in pure bred classes being 700 ahead of 1906, while the exhibits of carload lots of feeders and fat cattle were five times what they ever were before. Attendance also was heavy, breaking all records according to official report.

Next to the carload lots the sheep pens showed the largest increase in numbers—the Shropshires in particular establishing an extraordinary record—665 horses, 1272 cattle, 1210 sheep and 375 swine swelled the entry list to proportions of incredible magnitude, and incidentally showed that in the new General Superintendent, B. H. Heide, the International has a worthy successor to the ex-Canadian, W. E. Skinner, who shaped its destinies so astutely during its first seven years.

The Chicago International is international in fact and spirit, as well as in name. Sometimes it seemed in certain classes as though it were international in that an American Institution put up the prize money for Canadian exhibitors to carry away,—yet even here the Yankee's magnanimity prevailed and no prize was begrudged so long as it was fairly won. Indeed the universal disposition was to congratulate Canadians, to fraternize and pay the compliment of genuine respect. Such a spirit is bound to find echo, and we would be an ill-dispositioned people if we failed to appreciate the glad hand of fellowship so generously extended. Not the least influence of this behemoth exposition, is the promotion of mutual understanding and good feeling between the two great Democracies on the North half of the Continent. It must not be inferred from our report that Canadian exhibitors cleaned up the show. "The Farmer's Advocate" naturally gives space to those features which interest its own readers, and by abbreviation and omission unintentionally minimizes the showing made by the Americans. It is a fact, however, that northern exhibitors were as a whole extraordinarily successful. Grand championships in the fat classes over all pure bred, grades and cross breeds, are the highest honors that can be won in cattle and in sheep. Canada captured both, while in the breeding classes of Clydesdales she nearly swept the boards; also winning high honors in Hackney horses and in most breeds of sheep.

The presence of the Scotch judge of fat classes of cattle and the German Government's exhibit of German Coach Horses were other features that helped to impart international flavor. Perhaps best of all, however, is the Agricultural College Students' Judging Contest for the two trophies offered by the Union Stock Yards & Transit Company, one for best work by a team of five students in judging horses and one for the best work in judging cattle, sheep and swine. Either of these trophies won three times by one college, becomes its property. The keenest kind of rivalry is engendered and great preparation is made. This year eight colleges competed. Iowa captured the horse trophy, but the one for cattle, sheep and swine comes permanently to Guelph. New trophies will have to be put up next year.

THE FAT CATTLE SECTION.

In the west-bound Grand Trunk Pullman a week ago Sunday night, it was announced that James Leask, the noted fat cattle exhibitor from Green Bank, Ontario, was taking to Chicago the high-grade Short-horn steer calf, Roan King, which had won two firsts at Toronto, first at the Dominion Exhibition in Sherbrooke, Quebec, and first at Ottawa. He had come on well of late and his owner was reported to have ventured the opinion that it "would take a good one to beat him." Next day, Monday forenoon, when out of a ring of twenty-six two-year-old grade and cross-bred steers and heifers, first went to the superb blue-grey Aberdeen-Angus Short-horn cross shown by the Colorado Agricultural College, leaving Mr. Leask's entry out of the money, he evinced no disappointment. Again in junior yearlings when the ring was headed by a nine-cross Hereford, he said nothing; he had a trump card up

his sleeve. The senior-calf class called it. Among the dozen or so of choice baby beeves the Scotch judge, Mr. Durno, readily selected Roan King for first place. Though unregistered, this calf is virtually a Shorthorn, his dam being practically pure-bred and his sire the recorded Gloster's choice, purchased in dam by Mr. W. G. Pettit of Freeman, Ont. Roan King was marked for a winner from the start. Suckling his dam for nine months and afterwards a wet nurse,—he was kept in the stable last summer and fed principally on clover hay, a very little flax seed being used. His finishing ration consisted of clover hay with a mixture of about one-quarter peas and three-quarters oats. At three days under 15 months he tipped the beam at 1090 pounds and is one of the snuggest beef propositions ever turned up in America. Mr. Durno said he had never put his hand on a better back.—Taut as a straight edge, deep-fleshed and a beautiful handler; it surprises the eye with its touch. Add to this a perfect smoothness with the trimness of a button throughout and you have a pen picture of the calf. As the first-prize ribbon was laid on his back, the least glint of anticipation betrayed itself in the exhibitor's eye. When later on, in the championship class for grades and cross breeds in age, Roan King was set above the eye filling Colorado two-years-old, chiefly on the score of handling—an impulse of exhilaration struggled beneath Scotch-Canadian reserve and hints of possible grand-championship honors began to be bruited about. Meanwhile in the pure-bred sweep-stake classes, speculation was whetted by indications that 1907 was to be another calf year. In the class for Shorthorn pure-bred steers or spayed heifers, honors went to the beautiful sappy calf Ohio's Crown. In the Aberdeen-Angus sweep-stakes, however, the honor was captured by the two-year-old Andy, the reserve grand champion last year. A wonderfully well filled out steer, deep ribbed, smooth and firm fleshed, he was well calculated to raise disturbing thoughts, but the critical juncture is not yet at hand.

The next step in the grand championship selection is to decide interbred championships by ages, that is, the first-prize two-year-old Short-horn, Hereford, Aberdeen-Angus, Galloway and grade or cross-bred come together and settle it among themselves. Likewise the yearlings and finally the calves. This resulted in two chances for the Doddies, both two-year-old and yearling championships going to them—won respectively by Andy the two-year-old and Flint of Meadowbrook, the yearling.

Among the calves Roan King has no difficulty in disposing of his closest competitor, Ohio's Crown, thus scoring another notch toward the final goal. Now comes the supreme moment. Andy Flint of Meadowbrook and Roan King line up for the grand finale.

The ring side is on the qui vive. Shorthorn prospects look bright, but never in the eight years of international history has the grand championship gone to a genuine representative of this breed, nor has it ever gone north of the boundary. Will it now? Judge Durno steps from Andy to Roan King surveying every point and comparing the backs of each. Roan King stands like a statue. He has learned his lesson well. The attendant in charge of the Angus steer is less attentive. He lets the back sag a little. This is fatal, for Andy has no points to spare in that regard. Satisfied presently Mr. Durno calls for the clerk. The Roan stands at the top. The crowd, until now held back by the police, press forward over the rail as the grand-championship ribbon is laid on the back of the "Shorthorn calf from Canada." "Hurrah for Canada" said Prof. Carlyle. "Yes, why did ye ever leave it?" responds W. E. Skinner, jovially. It cannot be said that the awarding of this high honor to a calf escaped criticism. Last year it was won by a Hereford calf Peerless Wilton 39th Defender, which this year came back only to receive third in his class. But the task of carrying over a finished beast of whatever age is admittedly most difficult and there would seem to be no good reason why a steer finished for the block should not receive recognition whether 15 months old or three years. At any rate the decision was generally popular and indicates the tendency of the times towards the production of early-maturing heavy-weight cattle.

All told, Roan King wins one first, two championships, and the grand championship, besides several specials. His prize money aggregates \$330.00, which is to be duplicated by the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, making \$660.00. Furthermore the American Shorthorn Association offered a special prize of \$500.00, if the grand champion were a Shorthorn. As Roan King is practically a purebred, he might fairly be expected to receive this, which would make the total \$1160.00. In addition to all this Mr. Leask obtains a gold medal offered by the management to the herdsman who fits the grand champion steer. The last event in the calf's career was his sale for 24 cents a pound to the Klink Packing Company of Buffalo, N. Y. He weighed 1080 pounds and brought \$250.20. The total proceeds from this steer would amount to about 1300.00 or better.

A feast for cattle-lovers' eyes was the magnificent

aggregation of carload lots of steers. After a sifting committee had gone through the yards eliminating every bunch not strictly up to Exhibition standard, there remained 95 carloads of fat cattle and 33 of feeders for Judge Du Plan to pass upon. The championship here went to the veteran Iowa feeder, Claus Krambeck, on a carload of two-year-old Doddies, which were just about perfection. Mr. Krambeck, whose name denotes his German origin, has won three grand championships in the past eight shows, and is admitted to be one of the most expert feeders in the United States. He chooses his show cattle when calves, and nurses them through to maturity with the utmost care. Reserved for championship were a capital carload of Texan Herefords of the same age, shown by a doughty competitor, Dan Black.

SHORTHORNS.

Those under the impression that Shorthorn business is dull must have been astounded at the showing in Chicago last week. Magnificent line-ups of animal perfection adorned the arena with its red, white and roan color scheme. The only Canadian exhibitor was Geo. Amos & Son, of Moffat, Ont., who although facing formidable competition, made a very creditable bid for honors. Against him were such noted breeders as C. E. Clarke, of Minnesota, Elmendorf Farm of Kentucky, F. W. Harding, of Wisconsin, Carpenter & Ross, Ohio, W. H. Dunwoody, of Minnesota, Abram Renick, Kentucky, and Herr Bros. & Reynolds, Wisconsin, besides dozens of lesser exhibitors. Aged bulls were headed by that grand thick deep sire Whitehall Marshall, with a splendid back and thigh filled down to the bottom of the twist. Next to him stood Bapton Favorite, whose flesh showed a tendency to roll on the ribs. Two-year-olds were headed by the thick, massive deep-fleshed Signet, by the Professor. Anoka Sultan was well entitled to lead the senior yearlings. He is a good even bull and a very mellow handler. After him came Marigold Prince, followed by Flower Knight, and here Amos figured with Bud's Emblem, by Old Lancaster. The junior yearlings were a splendid lot, considered by some the best ever put on this class. Scotch Goods by Choice Goods, headed the string and afterwards defeated Whitehall Marshall for breed championship. Among a bunch of about twenty senior bull calves, any of the first five would have made a respectable first. The die was cast in favor of Ruberta's Goods, by Golden Goods, followed by Dunwoody's Juno Clipper. More hard work was furnished by the twenty-three junior calves, baffling in their high-class uniformity. Aged cows were accounted fair, there being some poor tail-enders and some nearer the top that showed the results of repeated fitting in a certain roughness and tendency to roll. First went to Clarke's noted winner Dorothea, leaving second for her stable-mate, Duchess of Lancaster 13th.

In two-year-old heifers Amos & Son came within one place of the top, with the roan, Flora 9th, by Old Lancaster, being beaten by Clarke's senior champion red heifer, Alice of Meadow Lawn. From appearances the roan had it, but the judges asserted that handling revealed a comparative bareness over the shoulder plate, and a slight deficiency through the ribs. There were many good judges however, who would have reversed the placing. In a great class of senior yearling heifers, Manitoba breeding won distinction, Clarke's Poplar Park Queen, bred by Wm. English and sired by Silver King, winning the coveted blue. She is a grand thick deep roan heifer, broad-joined, with parallel top and underlines and but for a bit of patchiness at the tailhead, quite smoothly-fleshed. Another good one of rather smaller scale was Lady Dorothea 3rd. A great ring of junior yearlings were headed by Dunwoody's Woodhill May Blossom, afterwards junior and grand champion, and twenty-five senior calves by Elmendorf Lassie. Better and more of it were the junior calves, among which 27 buds of promise baffled the judicial eye. It ended with another victory for Clarke on Snow bird, by Nonpareil Stamp.

Awards, Aged Bulls: 1 Elmendorf Farm, Ky., on Whitehall Marshall, 2 C. E. Clark, Minn., on Bapton Favorite, 3 M. Forbes & Son, Ill., on Victor Linwood, 4 F. W. Harding, Wis., on Whitehall King, 5 Adkins & Stevenson, Ill., on Invincible Hampton. Two-year-old Bulls: 1 Abram Renick, Ky., on Signet, 2 Purdy Bros., Mo., on Lord Champion 3 Carpenter & Ross, Ohio, on Avondale, 4 D. Tietgen, Iowa, on Straight Marshall, 5 A. F. Graves on Champion of Lyndale. Senior Yearlings: 1 F. W. Harding, Wis., on Anoka Sultan, 2 J. D. Douglas & Son, Ind., on Marigold Prince, 3 C. E. Clark on Flower Knight, 4 Geo. Amos & Son, Ont., on Bud's Emblem, 5 G. H. White, Iowa, on Hampton Counselor. Junior Yearlings: 1 E. W. Bowen, Ind., on Scotch Goods, 2 C. E. Clark on Gloster Knight, 3 S. G. Eliason, Minn., on American Archer, 4 W. C. Coleman, Ky., on Orange Sultan, 5 E. W. Harmon, Iowa, on Baron Pride. Senior Calves: 1 Howell Rees & Son, Neb., on Ruberta's Goods, 2 W. H. Dunwoody, Minn., on Juno Clipper, 3 Herr Bros. & Reynolds, Wis., on Royal Kintore, 4 Harding on Marshall's Best, 5 W. H. Dunwoody on Clipper's Choice. Junior Calves: 1 Charles F. Leonard &