

were the only exhibitors. Both herds were headed by Canadian-bred bulls, the former by Nominee, bred by Gaunt & Son, St. Helen's, Ont., and in the hands of Capt. Robson, Ilderton, the sweepstakes bull at Toronto last year and also at the head of the sweepstakes herd; the other bull being St. Valentine, bred by James Gardhouse & Sons, Highfield, Ont.; got by Guardsman, out of Verbena's Lady, by Imp. Reporter. At the head of the herd of Messrs. Robbins, of Indiana, St. Valentine was the 1897 champion bull of American show-yards. There was intense interest in the coming together of these champions, and the judges, Prof. Thos. Shaw, of Minnesota Agricultural College, and Prof. Curtiss, of Iowa, had their work cut out for them. Decision was finally given in favor of the Canadian champion, Nominee, and this finding was so unsatisfactory to Mr. Ward, the owner of St. Valentine, that he declined to pull out another animal. Nominee was not as heavily fleshed, and was none too well covered over back and loins, but was the evenest, smoothest bull all through, carrying his flesh more evenly—this being more particularly noticeable on the hind quarters. Both are show bulls of the very highest order and of very similar type. The Iowa herd having been withdrawn, left the rest of the class to the Brownale herd without competition, which weakened the Shorthorns very considerably when it came to the sweepstakes competitions between breeds, as Mr. Ward had secured several members of the Robbins (1897) show herd, and was especially strong in the younger female classes. He also had the two-year-old bull, Gold-dust, bred by H. F. Brown, a bull full of flesh and early-maturing quality. The Brownale herd had forward in Spicy of Brownale a cow of marvelous finish, carrying a billiard table. She certainly is one of the few, and was subsequently placed female champion in the aged class over all beef breeds. Nominee was awarded the breed championship over Sotham's magnificent Hereford, and A. C. Binnie's (of Alta, Iowa) Doodle. They were three great beef bulls, and long did Profs. Shaw and Curtiss cogitate over their respective merits, Shaw voting for the roan and Curtiss for the whiteface, necessitating a third judge being called in, who sent the coveted honor to the Shorthorn, he being the leastest bull of the trio. The Brownale Shorthorns scored another great victory in winning the \$250 premium for sweepstakes herd, any breed, consisting of bull any age, cow 3 years or over, cow 2 years, cow yearling and heifer calf. Sotham's Herefords 2nd and McHenry's Polled Angus 3rd.

But one herd of Herefords was present—that of T. F. Sotham, Chillicothe, Missouri, but they were good ones and shown in high fit. Herefords won 1st over all breeds in two-year-old bull, one-year-old heifer, and heifer calf; on young herd, bred by exhibitor, and 2nd on herd of six, any age, breed or sex, bred and owned by exhibitor for the breeders' stake. In Polled Angus, the exhibit was one of the best we have ever seen, three herds competing—Wallace Estill, of Missouri; W. A. McHenry and A. C. Binnie, both of Iowa. Honors were pretty well divided in the class, while against all breeds Estill had the 1st prize two-year-old bull, with McHenry 2nd; McHenry the 1st prize two-year-old heifer. In the breeders' stake, six head, any age or sex, bred and owned by exhibitor, Estill scored 1st and McHenry 3rd, the whitefaces going in between. The young herds—bull and four females—Estill's herd was second to the Herefords, with McHenry's blacks in third place. There was a good, representative showing of Galloways, with herds from Indiana, Kansas and Nebraska, all shown in good field condition, with no special preparation, and they did not enter the beef breed competitions.

Two herds of Brown Swiss were shown, and judged from general purpose standpoint. They are a rugged-looking cattle, showing marked dairy quality, but peculiarly coarse in the bone. Another curiosity was the herd of dehorned Dutch Belted cattle. They are black at both ends, with a wide band of white clear round the middle. They are of dairy type, with nothing specially to commend them but their peculiar marking. The dairy breeds were present in large numbers, the Jerseys making the best showing as to quality. Five herds were out, and that of F. H. Scribner, of Wisconsin, contained a number of animals of exceptional merit, the majority of firsts going to his herd. A cow from this herd heading a strong class of 19 showed remarkably fine dairy quality. Guernseys of good quality were shown, but the Ayrshires were few in number and not particularly strong in quality. J. J. Hill, the Great Northern Railway magnate, had his Ayrshire herd on exhibition, but not in competition. There were a good number of Holsteins forward, but they did not strike one as being an up-to-date lot, many of the cows having a milked-out, stale appearance.

SHEEP.

The exhibit of sheep was fairly large, and pronounced by Prof. Shaw, who judged most of the classes, as being one of the best exhibits of sheep ever held in the State. Shropshires, Oxford, Hampshires, and Cotswolds were well represented, with a few Southdowns and Dorset Horns. Merinos seem to be strongly in favor, judging by the number present.

SWINE.

In swine, Poland-Chinas, of course, were most largely in evidence. There were also a few Chester Whites, Duroc-Jerseys, Suffolks, Essex, a small black breed resembling Suffolks, and Berkshires,

while there was a good showing of Yorkshires, a breed little known there as yet, judging from remarks of visitors overheard around the pens. The Yorkshire men were talking the prolificness of their breed, and showed a number of good substantial evidences of that quality in big litters of good pigs. The Agricultural College exhibited some fine Yorkshires by way of introducing the breed. In the

POULTRY

exhibit each exhibitor had all his entries in one place, so that all breeds of fowls, turkeys, ducks, geese, rabbits, pigeons, mice, etc., were mixed up, and a comparison of the various individuals was almost an impossibility. There was a large and varied display.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

At this fair there is a very great exhibit of agricultural machinery, many of the larger manufacturers having large permanent buildings of their own. In machinery suited for prairie agriculture there was nothing especially new, the only feature worthy of note being the number of seeders that are fitted with single revolving disks in place of shoes. These do not appear to be any advantage over the shoe, whatever they might be in practice. Mr. Stevenson, of Lowe Farm fame, was present with his double revolving coulters seeder shoe on the Monitor drills. These have been used on the Cockshutt Plow Co.'s drills this last year, and we understand are giving satisfaction.

A number of road machines were exhibited, and under the direction of Prof. Hays, of the Agricultural College, an interesting exhibit of the use of these machines in practical operation was given. A score card arranged on the following scale was used by the judges in making the awards: Ability to plan the work and direct the driver, 10; economy of team labor, 10; time required, 12; manner of opening the ditches, 8; manner of laying the earth in the grade, 5; the finished ditch, 18; the finished grade, 20; manipulation of the machine, 7; general workmanship, 10; explanation to the judges of the machine and its use, limited to five minutes, 5; total, 100. There were four contestants, and some good work done.

IN THE DAIRY BUILDING

butter and cheese were exhibited by but few exhibitors, who seemed to be large concerns, and monopolized all the space available with advertising exhibits.

THE HONEY DISPLAY

was particularly fine. The display of Minnesota-grown fruits and flowers in the horticultural building was magnificent, the apples being particularly attractive, of good size and color. Old-timers informed us that they used to consider it impossible to grow apples in Minnesota, but that they are now succeeding was amply evidenced by the fine display made at this fair. Attractive county exhibits were a leading feature. In one large building, agricultural products of all kinds were tastefully displayed, and the advantages offered to settlers in each county duly set forth by placards, etc., giving the price of land, railway facilities, and so forth. The Canadian Immigration Department made a large display of the varied products of Manitoba, Assiniboia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, in the main building, which attracted large crowds of interested visitors all the week. Their questions were attended to, and supplies of literature furnished by Agents W. Speers and W. J. White, who were in attendance. The exhibit was very tastefully arranged, and a big hit of Manitoba No. 1 hard proved of special interest.

For the Shepherd in the Fall.

BY J. M'CAIG, PETERSBURG CO., ONT.

There are four things to be considered by the shepherd at this season, and these are: The character of his ewe flock, their condition, the time at which he will mate them, and the kind of ram he is going to use. With regard to the character of the flock, it may be said that the shepherd should aim to increase its average value and excellence each year by the weeding out of faulty individuals and the addition of superior ones. The life of a sheep is comparatively short, so each year generally finds some that should be drafted on account of age. A ewe has a full mouth at four years, after which age her teeth begin to wear shorter and become wider apart. At six years old she generally begins to lose some of her teeth. A broken mouth of this kind is a good reason for drafting a ewe, but not if the ewe herself is of fine type, answers the ideal of the shepherd as a breeder, and shows no sign of breaking down. The place made vacant by these ewes is taken by the yearlings, but it would not pay to put in an inferior shearer for a good five or six year old on the score of age alone. The Downs, as a rule, will breed longer than the long-wools. A ewe with breed longer than the long-wools. A ewe with only one good test is generally unprofitable. She may have a fat back, but the lamb at her side is scraggy. A third class of ewes that should be gotten rid of are those that do not answer to the accepted standard of the breed in shape, fleece, coloring, etc. Generally speaking, the good points in any breed as to shape are those that are common to the best specimens of all breeds, and a sheep that has not a good form cannot be a good sheep for any other reason. Get rid of the long necks, big heads, light shoulders, loins, breast, and hams. Your shortest legged sheep would be none the worse of being still closer to the ground. A meaty carcass

always goes with short legs, and we are raising mutton breeds in this country.

With regard to condition, it is generally agreed that the ewes should be in good flesh at the time of coupling, and should continue on good diet during service. This for three reasons. The ewe's care of her lamb does not begin when the lamb is dropped, but from the beginning of pregnancy. It is important, then, that the ewe should enter this period lusty and strong. The best argument for early weaning of lambs is that it allows the ewes to build up for next season's work. The best pair of lambs raised this year in the writer's flock were from a ewe whose lamb was taken from her in April of the previous year; the mother was consequently in good shape when the breeding season opened. This year my lambs have been weaned earlier than ever before. They are doing well, and the backs of the ewe flock show all the signs of "good living" by reason of the longer rest. The reason that they should be kept on generous diet during the mating season is on account of the biological law that nature preserves a balance between the supply of food and the number of consumers. Hence, a flock rolling in plenty gives nature the best excuse, so to speak, for large multiplication in numbers. A third reason for generous feeding when the ewes go with the ram is that they come in heat faster, consequently will be served all about the same time. On this account the lambing season will be short, and the lamb flock even as to size and maturity.

The time of mating will depend on the purpose for which lambs are raised. Hothouse lambs for city tables are necessarily early. Lambs raised for exhibition are likewise generally early. In the latter case the only point gained is size, which seems indispensable, but should not be. On the other hand, the December or January lamb before December loses the characteristic bloom, the fine, delicate head and glossy fleece that attracts one in the lamb flock. Late lambs, on the other hand, are a mistake. There is a good deal of a kind of semi-poetry written about having lambs come with the first bite of springing grass. Doubtless they are little trouble, but this is all that can be said for the practice. A shepherd does not call looking after his flock at lambing time "trouble." The difference in warmth is not specially important, as lambs suffer little from cold after they are a couple of days old. The good afforded the lambs by the grass is of no use until they are three weeks or a month old. The best time for lambs is March. It is admitted that they will require about as much care in this month as in January or February, but the drain on the ewe will not be so long continued as in the latter case, and the lamb will not be forced into a coarse, misshapen thing by the preponderance of dry or concentrated food over the falling milk of the ewe as he gets older. With the March lamb, on the other hand, the milk of the ewe is almost sufficient until the lamb gets on the grass. At least, if not sufficient, it will largely preponderate over concentrated food of other kinds, so that there is no danger of indigestion or overfeeding. The small quantity of bran, chopped oats, peas, and oil cake or such other mixture of grains as he gets from the creep, indeed is just sufficient to give him the proverbial "start" so beneficial to young stock before going on the grass. A little grain seems to stimulate and give vigor to his digestive processes. In this way the March lamb has the advantage of the May lamb. Besides, he can be weaned early—before the grass has failed to its driest time; and secondly, he learns to take care of himself before the bad fall weather has set in. A March lamb has vigor and constitution.

Finally, take a look at the lord of your flock. See if he is well up in the front, broad across the shoulders and dropping neither in front or behind them, neck short and setting broadly into the shoulder and tapering to a fine, patrician head, but masculine and bold, neck properly arched also, and ending in a broad crown between the ears. Look down his back, see if it is level, see if his loins are strong and wide, and if he carries his width well out in the hind quarters. If he is good on top, you will likely find a good leg of mutton on him, twist low down, legs well apart, good breast and straight underline. In addition to this, if he has well-developed testicles, a good fleece and fine carriage, he'll do. On the other hand, if he is long in the neck, with the arch downward instead of upward, has a coarse head, is narrow on top, pointed behind, stands high on his pins, and has both fore legs hind, stands high on his pins, and has both fore legs coming out of the same place apparently, and is cant of wool, put him in the wagon and go out the back way with him to the butcher's, and buy no more five-dollar rams. Forget your jealousy, and go to your neighbor who has made a distinguished success of the sheep business, couple your own judgment with his advice, put up the price, and don't be afraid to show your choice to the neighbors you meet on the road home.

The Agricultural Fair to Supplant the Sun Dance of the Indian.

G. H. Wheatley, Indian Agent of the Blackfoot Reserve near Calgary, has hit upon a plan by which he hopes to wean the Indian from his annual sun dance. He proposes to substitute the agricultural fair for the sun dance, and on September 24th will hold, on the Reserve near Gleichen, the first purely Indian agricultural show ever held. The Indians on this Reserve have completed an irrigation canal to irrigate a flat of 700 acres. They are putting up 500 tons of hay on contract, and are reported to have fairly good grain crops.