

sylvania farmer says he planted twenty-four whole potatoes last spring, with a handful of bran on each, and covered them with about four inches of soil. Right beside them he planted twenty-four whole potatoes of the same kind without the bran. The twenty-four he put bran on produced three pecks, the twenty-four without bran two pecks. The vines with bran had a dark green color, but the vines without bran were yellower.

Live-stock at Provincial Exhibition.

HORSES.

The show in this department was hardly up to what we have seen in former years, especially in the driving and carriage classes. Owing to the fact that no provision had been made in the plans for the horse stables for enabling the general public to obtain a sight of the animals on exhibition, except when they came into the ring before the judges, it was next to impossible to obtain any satisfactory information in regard to the names and ownership of the various animals shown. In the heavy draught class there are fewer animals exhibited, showing a strong tendency to lay on superfluous fat, than in past years. It is beginning to be found out that these enormously heavy stallions, weighing from 2,000 to 2,400 lbs, that were once in fashion, are not only unsuitable for breeding to the comparatively light mare of the country, but that they seldom prove valuable as stock-getters. In the carriage class there were some good young animals shown, as also in the class of blood horses. The growing demand for horses of good substance, bone and action, for export to Great Britain should induce our farmers to prefer the Cleveland Bay, or a stout, strong-boned blood sire of the English class to any other. Most of the best carriage teams in the country have been brought up for export to England the past season, which may account for the rather slim show they make here now.

CATTLE.

The exhibition in the cattle classes this year is a most excellent one, especially in Shorthorns, Ayrshires and Grades. A few Alderneys were shown, and one lot of Jerseys.

Among the leading exhibitors of Shorthorns the Bow Park Association make a fine display of 24 head by the imported Duchess bull 4th Duke of Clarence, a rich roan of fine form and style, bred by Col. Gunter, England, and purchased at 2,500 guineas in 1876. The Chevalier, a red son of 22nd Duke of Airdrie, out of Malvern Gwynne, is a particularly fine, handsome youngster, bred by Richard Gibson, of Ilderton, near London.

Among the females we notice the fine old 6th Duchess of Oakland, now 11 years old, and still, in her old age a splendid specimen of an old tribe of Shorthorns.

Butterfly's Duchess, bred by George Garne, England, in 1876, is another fine specimen of the so-called plain sort of old-fashioned tribes. Rose of Autumn 3rd, a rich roan of 1876, is the handsomest heifer on the grounds, and easily obtained 1st prize; she is of Booth's celebrated Mantilini tribe. James Russell, Richmond Hill, brings out his fine herd headed by the red bull High Sheriff 2nd. He has several females, among them Isabella, the cow that won the gold medal at the Centennial—she gets 1st prize, while Duchess of Springbrook gets 2nd. The competition between this herd and Bow Park for herd prize is very close; the latter only winning it through having the Duchess bull at its head. Messrs J. & R. Hunter, Alma, bring out a fine herd headed by a 2-year-old bull. The Baron, that is the handsomest bull on the grounds, easily winning 1st in his class, and diploma in best of any age. They also show a

number of extra fine grades. J. I. Davidson, Pickering, brings out several yearlings and calves, and a fine lot they are—all of his own herding. N. G. Pettit and John Fothergill, Nelson, exhibit several fine animals, as also does John M. Bell, Atha, Thos. Boak, Milton, John Dryden, Brooklin, J. W. Stone, Guelph, and A. & W. Watt, Salem. The heifer-calf ring is the largest we ever saw, 28 head being brought before the judges and every one good.

The competition throughout is very close, and the judges evidently very careful in making their awards.

AYRSHIRES.

This class is remarkably well filled and shows an improvement every year. Messrs. Jardine & Sons, of Saltfleet, have a magnificent herd—this was also shown at N. Y. State Fair at Elmira, Western State Fair at Rochester, when they took several 1st and 2nd prizes, the herd-prize and two gold medals. They carry everything before them here, including the Prince of Wales' prize of \$60; herd prize; \$100, special, for bull and 5 five females under 2 years; \$100, special, for best 10 cows in milk. Thos. Guy, of Oshawa, shows a fine herd, and runs Jardine very close. George Thomson, Bright, Jas. Lawrie, Malvern, and Wm. Rodden, Plantagenet, also exhibit fine herds. Lawrie's 10 cows in milk are splendid animals, but rough from the pastures.

HEREFORDS.

F. W. Stone, of Guelph, is alone in his glory in this class. They are fine animals, well adapted as a fine breed to make the best of beef as grazers and early feeders. But they do not seem to be gaining in favor, nor is it likely they ever will until they are offered to farmers at such prices as will induce them to try breeding them on their farms. They do not cross on our native stock as well as Shorthorns, or prove valuable to the dairyman. It is worth consideration whether they should not now be withdrawn as a breed from the prize tests at our shows, at least for a time. Then perhaps this monopoly of the breed by one man would cease.

DEVONS.

Mr. Geo. Rudd, of Puslinch, is the leading exhibitor in this class, though there are one or two others with small herds.

GRADES.

There is a good display, and, as usual, all are a cross of Shorthorn blood or native stock. No other pure breed seems to answer so well for making the right sort of stock for the butcher at so small cost. There are some splendid fat cattle to be seen, notably a pair of 4-year-old grade steers, exhibited by John Mallon, Toronto—they weigh together 5,826 lbs. J. B. Armstrong, Guelph, shows two fine 3-year-old steers, pure Shorthorns. J. Fothergill, Nelson, 2 fat cows, also Shorthorns.

SHEEP.

The display in the sheep classes is not as large as we have seen in former years. The glory of the once high-priced, fancy Cotswolds seems to have departed. The efforts of the ring of speculators who took hold of the breed some few years ago to make them popular with the general farmer, and to add to their value by getting them pedigreed and recorded, have proved a failure. As a mutton sheep they are behind the Leicester in early maturity, feeding qualities and quality of meat. The demand for their wool for combing purposes is but limited. They have nothing to recommend them except great size, large fleeces and handsome appearance when fed up for show. Their flesh is coarse and has a tallowy taste. They are a fine breed for exhibition purposes, both at fairs and at Christmas markets, but no one will eat their mut-

ton when Southdown and Leicester is to be had. Only a few pens of this breed are shown, mainly by John Snell's Sons; James Russell, who shows 23 head, including 8 recently imported from England, among them the 1st prize shearling ewes at the Royal this year; Birrell & Johnston, and one or two others. In Lincolns we notice a lot of the real simon-pure of this breed, recently imported by John Geary, of London, from the flocks of C. B. Robson, Bunker Hill, Lincolnshire, and Arthur Garfit, of Scothem, Lincolnshire. These sheep are remarkable for their fleeces of extra fine, long silky wool, but are thrown out by the judges here for want of size and fat. Samuel Longford, Granton, has 14 head in this class, very large and fat; C. S. Smith, Acton, 20 head; A. Oliver, Avonbank, 16 head. They are Canadian Lincolns, a sort of cross-bred sheep that has no particular merit about it unless it is size and aptitude to fatten.

In Leicesters the exhibit is the largest of any of the sheep classes, and this breed seems to continue to retain its hold as the general favorite of the farmer. There are a large number of exhibitors in this class, the leading ones being Wm. Somers, Blanshard; A. Oliver, Downie; Humphrey Snell, Clinton, and C. S. Smith, Acton.

Southdowns make a good display, the large flocks of Robt. Marsh, Richmond Hill, H. H. Spencer, Brooklin, D. Perley, Paris, F. W. Stone, Guelph, and Simon Simson, Kettleby, being conspicuous. The 1st prize shearling ewes of Thos. Douglass, Galt, are beauties. This breed will rapidly gain in favor now that our farmers find a market for mutton from exporters to England. The Southdown crosses better than any other on our native sheep, and the lambs come early in the season, arrive early at maturity, and are quick feeders on comparatively rough pasturage. For the purpose of raising mutton for a foreign market they are the same among sheep as the Shorthorn among cattle. Many of the Leicester flocks might be improved as mutton sheep by a cross or two of Southdown blood upon them.

There were no fine-wooled sheep exhibited, and the few fat sheep shown were of inferior quality as regards their mutton.

SWINE.

The exhibition is fairly good in all departments, though but moderate as to numbers. In Berkshires A. A. McArthur, Lobo, makes a fine display, though his pigs are mainly young animals. He had just been at the Michigan State Fair, where he took a large number of 1st and 2nd prizes, and the grand prize for the best display of swine. He takes 1st prize here for boar and sow under one year with 2nd Earl and Countess of Balmoral. They could not be beaten even in England, we think. John Snell's Sons make a large display, as also does the Bow Park Association.

In Essex swine Joseph Featherstone, Credit, is the leading exhibitor, with several fine animals imported this year from England. Jas. Hewer and Jas. Anderson, Guelph, also show several in this class.

In Yorkshires, J. & R. Leslie, Hornby, exhibit some fine pigs. Joseph Featherstone has some recently imported.

In Suffolks the leading exhibitors are C. Edmondson, Brantford; Jas. Main, Boyne; A. Frank & Son, Cheltenham; J. L. Peacock, Kincardine; J. & R. Leslie, Hornby; Robt. Chadwick, Burnhamthorpe; and last, the largest, is Jos. Featherstone, Credit, who makes a fine display, including a number of animals imported this year from England. He tells us that he this year exported 8,000 cattle and 4,000 sheep to the English markets, and finds the business quite profitable.