

G. & W. Parkinson's roan steer, a much firmer and smoother-fleshed steer, was placed fourth.

In the section for steers under a year, a popular winner was found in Israel Groff's Victor's Favorite, bred by himself, and sired by Victor's Roan Duke. He is a rich roan, of ideal type, level, strong-backed, round-ribbed, and evenly-fleshed, promising to go on to win to the end of his chapter. Peter Stewart, Everton, had a good second in a young white calf that will probably come again. James Leask led in the class for grade cow or heifer over three years, and had also the first-prize two-year-old and yearling heifers, the former a roan of beautiful type and fine quality, the latter a red-and-white, very smooth and firmly fleshed.

**Export Steers.**—In the class for best three export steers there were five entries, and an excellent showing, the first award going to a trio of Polled Aberdeen-Angus grades shown by John Brown & Sons, Galt, massive, thick-fleshed cattle, declared by the judges to be of the best selling sort and size for the English market. The second-prize group were grade Shorthorns, of good type, smooth, level and well finished, shown by Jas. Rennie & Son, Blackwater. In the section for the special prize for best pair of fat cattle, the first award went to Jas. Rennie & Son, second to James Leask, third to John Brown & Sons. The special for best single export steer went to John Brown & Sons, Galt, for one of his trio of Polled steers. The grand Championship for the best beef animal in the show was awarded to Jas. Rennie & Son for the pure-bred Shorthorn two-year-old steer, Moss Side Laddie, and the reserve was Jas. Leask's grade two-year-old steer, Lord Grey.

The prize animals in the beef-cattle classes paraded before the Governor-General and other visitors on Thursday afternoon presented a spectacle of which Canadians might well be proud. Such uniform excellence of type and quality has perhaps never been equalled in a show of the kind in this country, and it would compare favorably with a similar display in any country.

#### THE MILKING TRIAL.

The dairy-cow division of the show was not quite so strong in numbers as last year, but contained a good number of excellent cows, Holsteins and Ayrshires predominating. The champion award, based on performance in the two days' test, went to Adelaide Brooke De Kol, owned by Geo. Rice, of Tillsonburg, a cow of ideal dairy conformation, handsome and symmetrical in appearance, and at the same time furnished with a model-shaped udder and well-placed teats, together with a creditable record for a public test, her yield of milk in the two days being 126.51 pounds, testing 3.5 per cent. fat. She was first in the Holstein class, and champion over all breeds and crosses. The second place in the general competition, and reserve champion, was the Ayrshire cow, Annie Laurie of Norwich, owned by H. & J. McKee, Norwich, a cow also of ideal dairy form and function, carrying a grand udder, with good-sized and well-placed teats, and yielding 109.88 pounds milk, testing 4.1 per cent. fat.

#### THE SHEEP EXHIBIT.

The assembly of the sheepmen always assures a battle royal. Their meeting at the Winter Fair this year did not prove an exception. If we may rely upon the comments of directors, exhibitors and judges, and of the onlookers as well, we may credit the exhibit of sheep as the best that has been. The postponement of the date of the International affected the strength of the competition in some classes. One or two of the veteran breeders sent forward only a few of their sheep, withholding their best for the greater contest at Chicago. With the exception of one or two of the breeds, however, one would hardly have missed them as he looked over the long array of really excellent individuals in the different classes. The individual merit of the animals, and the keenness of the competition, made the judges' task a difficult one, but their work was conscientious and careful, and to their credit, be it said, that even the sheepmen seemed satisfied.

At Guelph the sheep appear on rather a different footing as compared with Toronto, or even with Chicago. One misses at first the sires of the flocks, and it may be likewise disappointed at the apparent lack of strength in the breeding classes. Male animals are debarred altogether, and one wonders whether the interest can be sustained when the sires and matrons of the flock are absent. Only when the rings appear before him does he realize that this is a fat-stock show, and that the premium here is upon flesh rather than upon type, and upon finish rather than upon character. Probably it is rightly so. At least one cannot keep back the feeling of enthusiasm that creeps over him, particularly when he puts his hand upon the firm, smooth, evenly-fleshed individuals that top the ring in every class. Gradually the opinion has evolved that even the pure-bred classes must be judged from the feeders' and consumers' standpoint. This was the stand taken by the judges this year, and it gained the approval of those at the ring-side. It is an inspiration to mingle with these old-time shepherds and watch their interest in the contest. Keen, sharp-witted, practical, sometimes even to craft, they await the decision of the

judges. None are more careful of their favorites, none are more anxious for position, none more critical of the awards. The younger men listen and learn. There are no better object lessons than in the arena of the show-ring. There are few better teachers than these time-taught masters. In each class there is some new problem to be solved; in each conversation there is some new hint dropped. Certainly these fairs serve to bring custom and help to establish trade, but their educative value to the younger generation must never be overlooked. Perfection is here as an appeal to the eye, the shepherds are here as authority to the inquiring, and there is competition to awaken enthusiasm. By witness, by criticism, by inspection there are taught the lessons of a lifetime. "He who runs may read."

So much by the way, now to the classes.

**SHROPSHIRE.**—It was a wonderful array of excellence that lined up before Judge Duncan on the opening day of the judging. Many were the comments of the bystanders as to the difficulty of his task. But after careful, painstaking work, when the final awards were given, it was agreed that he had given general satisfaction. Without doubt the Shropshires lead this year among the pure-breeds in the aggregate strength of the showing. The general merit of all the exhibits could not but be noticed. It would seem that John Campbell, Woodville, has not been able to resist the fascination of the show-ring, and he was forward again with an excellent exhibit. He and W. C. Edwards & Co., Rockland, with "Sammy" Bradburne in charge, divided up honors pretty evenly. Campbell probably had a little the advantage in the number of firsts he secured, but his entries were scarcely uniform enough to stand against the close competition of the Rockland flock. Lloyd-Jones Bros., Burford, stood a good third, and had the competition in finish and quality not been so

much of an advantage, for honors were divided pretty evenly. Exhibits were present from the flocks of Hastings Bros., Crosshill; A. & W. Whitelaw, Guelph; John Orr, Galt; John Kelly, Shakespeare; A. W. Smith, Maple Lodge; G. & W. Parkinson, Eramosa, and E. F. Park, Burgessville. The first three mentioned probably brought forward the strongest show. The ewe lamb class was a good one. The first went to Hastings Bros., second to A. W. Smith, and third and fourth to A. & W. Whitelaw. These four lambs were particularly fine, and attracted the admiration of the bystanders. In the yearling wether class the contest was not quite so close, and Hastings Bros. won the premium with a sheep of exceptional quality, type and finish. It is admitted that the Leicester exhibit was a strong feature of the show.

**COTSWOLDS.**—In the opinion of the exhibitors there has seldom, if ever, been a better show of Cotswolds. They were a strong class. The wether classes may have been a little off in type, but the winners were of excellent mutton form and of good quality. E. Brien & Son, Ridgetown, and Snell & Lyons, Snelgrove, were the strongest competitors, although Samuel Bailey, Forest, managed to secure a fair share of the money. The Brien flock had probably the advantage in the money prizes, taking three firsts out of a possible five, but from the standpoint of Cotswold type, the Snelgrove flock merits particular mention. The latter was first in class, ewe under one year, and first in class, three ewes under one year. E. F. Park, Burgessville, was also forward with some useful sheep.

**OXFORDS.**—It would seem that the Oxfords are coming to their own at last. There was scarcely the uniform quality in the exhibit as a whole that might be desired, but in numbers at least the present year probably surpasses any previous one. J. W. Lee & Sons, Simcoe, were forward with a fine exhibit. Their sheep were true to type, uniform in quality and wool, and nicely fitted. They succeeded in capturing a fair share of the prizes. W. E. Wright, Glanworth, however, proved a dangerous competitor, and in wether lamb class had things all his own way, winning first, second and third, and first for pen of three. There were useful exhibits present also from the flocks of E. Brien & Sons, Ridgetown; Alex. Stewart, Living Springs; A. Stevenson, Attwood, and Andrew Elliott, Pond Mills. These last are new arrivals, and had their sheep been fitted a little longer, the results would have been much more uncertain. It was encouraging to note much keener competition in this breed than in previous years.

#### SOUTHDOWNS.

There is no doubt but that this year the Southdowns were the aristocrats of the fair. Little patricians they seemed, as they chewed their cud unconcernedly in the presence of their big cousins. Not very numerous, not very big, but—what perfection! Even the Shropshires went down before them in perhaps the most interesting class of the fair, when Sir George Drummond's pen of four lambs went to the top in the contest for the \$250.00 silver cup, donated by the Bell Piano and Organ Co., for the best pen of four lambs, any breed, grade or cross. And that is not all. Shepherd Allen has the distinction of bringing out a sheep, a yearling wether, that will go down into history in the memory of sheepmen as one of the few perfect ones. Almost faultless it was, a touch that only the initiated recognize, a back that baffles description, and a leg of mutton that appealed to the stomach of every good honest Englishman present! Honor to whom honor is due. Drummond, Jackson and Telfer Bros. wear their laurels well this year.

**LINCOLNS.**—The veteran Lincoln breeder, John Gibson, Denfield, came himself to Guelph this year, but left his flock at home, reserving them for Chicago. As a consequence, L. Parkinson, Eramosa, had things all his own way, but the exhibit was not at all a mean one. He had full entries in the different classes, and the quality and type was good. His best yearling wether is worthy of special mention. It was first as a lamb last year, and has fulfilled the promise of the earlier trial.

**DORSETS.**—In the opinion of the judge the exhibit of Dorsets was at least forty per cent. better than in any previous year. As usual the flock of R. H. Harding, Thorndale, was to the front, winning first in each class, with occasionally a second or a third. His first-prize ewe lamb was champion at New Westminster and Portland this year. His yearling wether was also a



Adelaide Brook's De Kol.

Holstein cow. Championship winner in official test, Ontario Winter Fair, Guelph, 1905. Record at 5 years, 20 lbs. butter in 7 days; at 6 years, 21 lbs. Owned by Geo. Rice, Tillsonburg.

strong, more of the prizes might have gone their way. Other sheep were present from the flocks of W. E. Wright, Glanworth; W. D. Monkman, Bond Head; A. Rudell, Hespeler, and A. G. H. Luxton, Milton West, and an occasional prize went to each in turn. The ewe lambs were an interesting class. A winner might almost have been picked anywhere. There were a few moments of suspense while the judge made up his mind, and at the last moment John Campbell and Sam Bradburne hugged each other like schoolboys. When these two rivals are willing to do that, it is pretty well conceded that the result is as the toss of a copper. The final award went to Campbell, with Edwards second and third. With the same lambs in a pen of three, Edwards took first and Campbell second. The yearling wether class also elicited much comment. In giving the premium to Campbell, the judge felt called upon to say that, while from the breeders' standpoint this sheep might be considered a little plain, in his estimation it had the flesh and finish that made it fit to win from the standpoint of the feeder and consumer. Edwards' sheep was of beautiful type, but as it was a little overdone and carried rather too much surplus flesh, he considered it entitled only to second place. In wethers under one year, Edwards won, with an almost perfectly-fitted lamb. Space will not permit to follow the contest of these flocks farther.

**LEICESTERS.**—The Leicesters were an extra lot through all the classes. The type and quality was good, and there was a marked absence of the lack of firmness in handling that one had almost expected to find occasionally in an exhibit of this breed. Mr. A. W. Smith's flock of Maple Lodge was not out in its usual strength, as he was holding a number in reserve for Chicago, but he had, nevertheless, two or three good ones present. It is doubtful if any one exhibitor had

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