

in addition to nine firsts and ten seconds with his flock of twenty-three Hampshires.

The swine classes were not all filled, nor were they keenly contested, except in Yorkshires, where 33 head were on exhibit.

The show in the fruit, horticulture and floriculture building was a splendid display of exhibits from various districts. Langley District exhibit was awarded first prize of \$500 cash and the Dewar Challenge Silver Shield.

For district fruit exhibit, Salmon Arm was first, with a fine display of all fruits, excepting the most tropical kinds. Penticton, in the heart of the Okanagan Valley, got second; Armstrong, also in the Okanagan Valley, third, and Lower Arrow Lakes fourth. The latter district made the highest score on apples.

The poultry exhibit was the largest Westminster has ever known, having an entry list much in excess of previous years. The flocks of E. J. Clatterfield and C. R. Wooldridge, Burdittlam, captured most of the prizes.

What Education and System mean to Farming and Fruit-Growing.

PROGRESS MADE IN NORFOLK COUNTY.

Half a decade ago, Norfolk County was seldom heard of outside of a small radius surrounding it. To-day it is talked of in most parts of Canada and the United States, and its fame has spread to the Old Land across the Atlantic. What has been the cause of this wonderful change in so short a time? It is simply that the people have awakened to the possibilities of their county. The land is the same land it was five years ago, the number of bearing apple trees in the county is practically the same as it was then, yet the annual output of apples has increased from about 10,000 barrels to nearly 40,000 barrels in that time, and the quality is all that could be desired. This has been accomplished largely through the education of the farmer and fruit-grower, and is the result of the general adoption of improved methods of cultivation, spraying, and packing of the fruit, which have so improved the quality of the output that wherever the name "Norfolk" appears on a package, the consumer is assured of the best possible in that particular class of fruit.

Norfolk, as a fruit-growing district, is largely an apple county; at least, the apple is the most reliable and widely-grown fruit. Of late years, considerable areas have been planted to peaches, and, judging from the robust, healthy trees which are now to be seen in many orchards, peaches will soon be a large factor in the fruit-growing industry of the county. The soil is ideal for this crop, and the only drawback seems to be a little doubt as to the climatic conditions. However, peaches are doing well. Plums, cherries and pears grow to perfection here, and all the smaller fruits produce abundantly.

CO-OPERATION IN FRUIT-GROWING.

The real commencement of Norfolk's rapid advancement was the organization of the Norfolk Fruit-growers' Association in 1906. It began with seventeen members, and before the end of the first year this had increased to fifty-three, and the membership is now 535. This association proved to be one of the best educators in the county. Old, diseased, unpruned, insect-and-fungus-affected trees have been rejuvenated, and are now producing heavy loads of the very best of fruit. Educating the populace is generally a slow process, and, without one or more enthusiasts, a long period of time would elapse before any appreciative results would be noticed. Norfolk is not lacking in enthusiastic men. James E. Johnson, the manager of the association since its formation, is a man bubbling over with enthusiasm, as is also Jos. Gilbertson, the president of the association. Enthusiasm is contagious. It has spread to all the directors, officers and members, until the people of every community in the county are interested to such an extent that more trees are planted each year. It is estimated that 250,000 trees have been planted in the county since the formation of the association. Members of the association have to prune, spray, and care for their orchards, the directions being furnished from the office. When packing time arrives, expert packers are sent throughout the county to give demonstrations in packing, with the result that all the members of the association can put up their own apples in a very satisfactory manner. The fruit is all marketed through the association. Inspectors are appointed to go through the county and oversee the work done. This year twelve of these men have gone through the orchards seeing that all apples are properly graded and packed. Some idea of the business done by the association and its rapid progress can be judged from the following figures: In 1906 the association handled only about \$14,000 worth of apples; in 1910 the business had increased to over \$100,000, and this year it will reach nearly \$130,000. This shows

that the education has had a great effect in increasing the cash returns which the fruit-growers receive.

THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Another very important factor in the education of the Norfolk farmers is the local branch of the Provincial Department of Agriculture. This Department opened an office in Simcoe in the spring of 1909, and, under the able direction of P. E. Angle, great strides were made in agricultural education in the county. Experimental work was carried on on several farms where varieties of grains, corn and roots, and also fertilizers, were tested. The principles of underdrainage were demonstrated, and much surveying for these drains done. Six-weeks short courses are held each year in the High School, and for two years a regular course was carried on in this school. The office is always open, and bulletins and information can be had on application. Mr. Angle left this work last spring to become superintendent of the Lynndale Farms, Simcoe, and the work was ably carried on for a few months by his assistant, A. A. Toole. In June last, J. E. Smith, a 1911 O. A. C. graduate, took charge of the office, and he is carrying out the work begun and planning many new undertakings. A prize poultry competition, begun by Mr. Angle, has been successfully completed. This was a flock contest, the prizes, aggregating \$100, being awarded to the best-kept and the best-housed flock which made the highest record during the year. About forty flocks were entered, and great interest was taken. Another competition was inaugurated in hatching chickens and caring for them. This was confined to the school children, and over eighty entries were made. A dozen Barred Rock eggs were furnished each pupil. They were selected eggs from a laying strain of fowl at the O. A. C. The children were to look after the eggs and the chickens, and prizes will be awarded at a special exhibition of the birds at a school fair later this fall. Mr. Smith will continue the experiments with fertilizers, and underdrainage will be encouraged. There are enough orders for surveying in the office now to keep the Department busy the rest of the fall and most of the early part of next summer. Cow-testing is being encouraged, and associations have been formed. A demonstration orchard of four acres has been handled this past season, and the work will be continued. Different methods of spraying, pruning and cultivation are carried on for the benefit of the people. The starting of a publicity organization is contemplated. It is proposed to select a man from the council of each township in the county to form a board to advertise the county and put clearly before the outside world its possibilities. All this work is doing much to educate the people and increase the prestige of Norfolk.

A PURELY AGRICULTURAL FAIR.

At the County Fair, recently held, an important feature was the Department of Agriculture tent. Mr. Smith and his assistants, A. A. Toole and R. Austin, had many interesting and instructive exhibits, including poultry-house models, fattening crates, feed hoppers; dressed birds showing the result of different methods of feeding; egg preservatives; apples and fruit diseases; insects and weeds; cow-testing outfits; drainage material; grains, roots, and cover and fodder crops. What better method of education is there than practical demonstration? This tent was a center of attraction throughout the show, and many callers received some very valuable instruction.

It is remarkable how advancement and new ideas have spread throughout the county. It was in evidence in every department of the fair. This fair is one of the best county fairs in the Province, and much credit is due H. H. Groff, the veteran gladioli-grower, who is president of the County Agricultural Association and the Simcoe Horticultural Society; and J. T. Murphy, the untiring secretary of the fair; and to P. E. Angle, the superintendent. Simcoe has a purely agricultural and educational fair. No side-shows or fakers of any description are allowed on the grounds. No horse-racing is carried on, and still the crowds come to the show. This proves that if the people are educated in the right direction, they will find pleasure in the further education which can be derived from an exhibit of things purely agricultural.

The cattle exhibit was largely of the dairy breeds. Dairying is fast becoming a feature of the progress of the county. Some very fine herds of Jerseys, Holsteins and Ayrshires were out, some outside breeders being present, but a large part of the exhibits were owned in the county. Red breeds were not out strong, a couple of herds of Shorthorns comprising the exhibit. If dairying progresses as it is now doing, the county will soon be as famous for its dairy herds as it is for apples.

The class of horses used is mostly agricultural or light horses. Also, incidentally, the exhibit of heavy horses was small. The useful agricultural teams

were out, and some heavy-draft teams and brood mares. The draft horse in Norfolk is largely of Percheron breeding. In light horses, Yeager's Hackneys made a fine display, as did also the entries of many other light-horse owners. Yeager's horses have done much to advertise the county as a stock county.

The sheep and hog pens were well filled, and the quality of the entries was good. Sheep is one class of stock which has not been boomed in Norfolk. The greater part of this year's exhibit came from the vicinity of Burford. There are, however, some good sheep in the county, and the names of Baker and Lee are well known among sheep-breeders, yet there is much land in the county well adapted to this industry, and it might well be encouraged.

Poultry is one of the main branches of agriculture in Norfolk. The exhibit at the fair comprised over 300 pairs of fowl, and most of them were owned in the county. They made a fine exhibit, much larger than ever before, and some of the success was no doubt due to the increased interest in poultry which has been promoted by the competitions previously mentioned. Norfolk County boasts of one of the greatest poultry breeders in Canada. John Martin commenced breeding White Wyandottes some ten years ago, and, by careful mating and selection, he has succeeded in building up a magnificent flock of about 2,000 birds. His business increases yearly, and more accommodation for birds is necessary. During the past few years, his Regal strain has become so well known that he only exhibits at the Boston Poultry Show and at the New York State Fair, Syracuse, N. Y. Norfolk soil and climate are well adapted for poultry-raising, and the business is commencing to flourish.

A glance toward the Horticultural building was enough to convince one that here was to be found one of the interesting features. Fruit was there in plenty, and was admired by the people. A large percentage of the fair visitors were from the county, and they rightly showed a feeling of pride in the outcome of the efforts put forth in their own district. Such apples, for size, shape, color, quality, and freedom from blemishes are seldom seen at any fruit show, and there are thousands of barrels on the trees just as good, and many better, than those on exhibition. Equally high-class was the root exhibit. In fact, Norfolk seems to be adapted for the growing of almost all agricultural products common to Canada.

NEW CROPS AND UP-TO-DATE METHODS.

During the past summer, tobacco has been added to the crops grown commercially in the county. On the Lynndale Farms, owned by the Ontario Fruit Lands Co., Ltd., of which G. R. Cotrelle is manager, and P. E. Angle, superintendent, one acre of very fine tobacco was cultivated. It grew well, and the yield compared favorably with that in the older-established tobacco sections, and there seems to be no reason why this will not become one of the main crops, along with the fruit. The Lynndale Farms comprise upwards of 600 acres, which will be planted entirely to fruit, over 300 acres being planted next spring. This is a sample of what is being undertaken in the county.

Some of the finest apples ever grown are to be seen in the cared-for orchards this season. In Jas. E. Johnson's orchard, 1,222 barrels of No. 1 Greenings were packed, averaging about four barrels per tree, and not a No. 2 apple was put up. In this orchard, the percentage free from codling moth is upwards of 99. Other blemishes are very rare. This results from good spraying at the proper time. Lime-sulphur was used for the first and last sprayings, and Bordeaux mixture for the second spraying. The apples are large and well shapen, which results from frequent and thorough cultivation, followed by a cover crop of buckwheat and clover. Thinning was practiced on a few trees, and gave excellent results. Mr. Johnson believes that he received over \$700 return from about \$150 spent in thinning. At this rate, it is certainly a paying operation.

Young trees grow quickly on the Norfolk soil. The soil seems to hold moisture better than most soils, and the loss of trees after planting is usually small. There is a great amount of information yet to be obtained upon conservation of moisture. If in a dry season like the past summer, light soil can be made produce so abundantly, the possibilities of crop production over the Province seem unlimited.

Mr. Johnson took an extended trip through the fruit-growing districts of the Western United States and through Western Canada during the past summer for the purpose of studying co-operative societies and market possibilities. He believes that, as good as the Norfolk Association is, it might be improved and put on an even stronger basis. He favors educating the people first, after which they should qualify before being enrolled as members. He admits that their association is not perfect, and hopes, in the near