

Grand Ploughing Match.

The getting up and conducting of a Provincial ploughing match at the annual exhibitions of the Agricultural Association, having been repeatedly found by the directors to be attended with serious inconveniences, and even to interfere with the arrangements and working of the show itself, the idea was accordingly abandoned; besides the land in the month of September is generally too dry and hard for satisfactorily testing the performance of competitors in this ancient and indispensable art. The managers of the Electoral Division Society, of the city of Toronto, felt desirous of supplying this desideratum, and by the liberal aid of a number of individuals they were enabled to carry their purpose into effect on the 31st of October, on a farm belonging to George Cooper, Esq., occupied by Mr. Robert Worn, close to the Davenport station on the Northern Railway, about five miles from the city.

The premium list was quite a novelty of its kind, comprising various useful articles presented by individuals desirous of encouraging the laudable undertaking, and of prizes in money offered by the Society, and patronized by the directors of the Provincial Association. The competition was accordingly open to the whole Province. The list embraced five classes:—The first open to all competitors, entrance fee \$6. Second open to all that had not taken a 1st or 2nd prize in either 1st or 2nd classes at any previous match, within the last five years, entrance fee \$5. Third, confined to cast iron beam ploughs, open to all, entrance fee \$1. Fourth, boys under 18 years of age, that had not taken a 1st prize in any former match, fee \$2. Fifth, boys who had never competed in any former match, fee \$1. A quarter of an acre was assigned to each competitor, and the time allowed for performing the work at the rate of 11 hours per acre; depth not less than six inches. Each ploughman was allowed one assistant to set his stakes, but not to touch the furrow with his hands; and to commence at the stake corresponding with his number, and to throw out two half lands, the whole of which to be judged.

Forty-three ploughs started at a given signal, at 11.15, a.m., and with the exception of three or four, had completed their task by 3.15, p.m. The field, consisting of 30 acres, was in sod, mostly of a lightish gravelly soil, having a tolerably uniform surface, and affording on the whole as good facilities, perhaps, for competition ploughing as can be usually obtained.

We have no space for critical remarks on individual performances. We have seen quite as good work done on previous occasions, but not, perhaps, with so high an average. There was no decidedly bad work, as used to be the case in the earlier stages of these competitions in Canada. In the first division the work was performed with great uniformity and thoroughness, evincing a degree of skill and steadiness of purpose that could hardly be surpassed in any country. The ploughing in this, and in much of the second division, not only pleased the eye by its correct external proportions, but every inch of earth was thoroughly moved to a uniform depth of not less, perhaps, than seven inches. The short cast iron beam ploughs in the third division certainly failed to produce that clean and uniform finish to the furrows, which characterises the style of work of the ordinary swing ploughs. Yet much of the work done in this department was good, and the ground thoroughly moved. These short iron ploughs are excellent in rough, stumpy land, and probably for stubbles; but in stony sod, their action being unsteady, the results produced are certainly inferior, at least in appearance. The work of the boys in the fourth class was on the whole exceedingly commendable; and that of the three competitors in the fifth class, who had never performed in public before, unmistakably indicated no falling off.

The judges were—for ploughing classes 1 and 3—Dr. James Ross, Toronto; B. Wyncup, Willowdale; and Robert Patterson, Elmdale. For classes 2, 4, and 5, James Bowman, Newton Brook; William Justin, Streetsville; and James Patton, Scarboro'. For the special prizes, Andrew Smith, V.S., Toronto; J. Smallpiece, Toronto; and Alex. Gibb, Toronto.

MEETING IN ST. LAWRENCE HALL.

A novel and very agreeable feature of this ploughing competition was a conversazione in the evening, in the St. Lawrence Hall. Refreshments were served by Mr. Webb, and a goodly company, including a sprinkling of ladies, partook of the social repast, and spent a very agreeable evening in witnessing the presentation of the prizes to the winning competitors, and listening to the addresses of the several speakers, and the sweet strains of music. Phillip Armstrong, Esq., President of the Electoral Division Society, occupied the chair, and after some explanatory remarks introduced the gentlemen appointed to distribute the prizes.

CLASS I.

The prize cards in this class were, after a few prefatory remarks presented by Col. R. L. DENISON.

1st prize, Andrew Hood, Scarboro', silver mounted team harness valued at \$150—presented by R. Malcom, Toronto.

2nd prize, Simpson Rennie, Scarboro', a cutter presented by J. B. Armstrong, Guelph, valued at \$35 and \$10 cash, total \$45.

3rd prize, Dugald McLean, York township, set of barrows, valued at \$26—presented by H. Collard, Gananoque.

4th prize, Jas. McLean, York township, a plough, valued at \$19—presented by John Abell, Vaughan.

5th prize, Thos. Brunskill, Etobicoke, a store, valued at \$12—presented by J. R. Armstrong & Co., Toronto.

6th prize, Jno. Coleman, York township, set of draining tools, valued at \$10—presented by Rice Lewis & Son, Toronto.

7th prize, Thos. Davidson, Eglington, lot of sashes valued at \$8—presented by Mr. Wagner, Toronto.

8th prize, Arthur Barfet, Brooklin, a stove, valued at \$7—presented by Copp Brothers, Hamilton.

9th prize, Jas. McLean, Vaughan, a straw cutter, valued at \$6—presented by A. Anderson, London.

10th prize, Wm. Parkin, Trafalgar, a pump, valued at \$5—presented by John Ritchie, Toronto.

11th prize, Joe. Featherstone, Trafalgar, a table lamp, valued at \$4—presented by Noah L. Piper, Toronto.

CLASS II.

Rev. W. F. CLARKE, Editor of THE CANADA FARMER, after a brief address, presented the prize cards in this class.

1st prize, David Tweedie, of Milton, a buggy (\$40 of this prize presented by the society), valued at \$100—presented by Wm. Gould, Milton.

2nd prize, Wm. Rennie, Markham, a gentleman's shaftoe saddle, valued at \$30—presented by Alderman Thompson, Toronto, and \$5 from the society.

3rd prize, Allan McLean, York township, pair of Scotch collars, valued at \$25—presented by Robert Nicolls, Toronto, and \$5 from the society.

4th prize, D. M. McLean, York Mills, suit of clothes valued at \$20—presented by Robert Walker & Son, Toronto.

5th prize, Wm. Armstrong, Scarboro', a straw cutter, valued at \$16—presented by T. Haworth & Co., Toronto.

6th prize, Jno. McLean, York township, thoroughbred ram lamb, valued at \$12—presented by R. L. Denison, Toronto.

7th prize, Hugh Gillis, Vaughan, chest of drawers, valued at \$10—presented by Jacques & Hay, Toronto.

8th prize, Thos. Kinsley, Davenport, silk and wool pantaloons, valued at \$7—presented by Geo. Harcourt, Toronto.

9th prize, Wm. Sangster, Etobicoke, a stove, valued at \$5—presented by J. G. Beard & Sons, Toronto.

10th prize, Jas. King, York township, a stable lantern, valued at \$4—presented by E. Grantham, Toronto.

11th prize, Jas. Rennie, Whitby, pair of boots, valued at \$3 50—presented by Mr. Mcagher, Toronto.

12th prize, John Ross, Toronto, tea tray, valued at \$3—presented by Sparrow & Whatmough, Toronto.

CLASS III.

Prof. BECKLAND, after some remarks, presented the prizes to the winners in the 3rd class, as follows:

1st prize, Geo. Sheppard, Scarboro, a fanning mill, valued at \$30—presented by Patterson Bros., Paterson.

2nd prize, H. Chappel, Oro, a cooking stove, valued at \$20—presented by John Melice, Toronto.

3rd prize, Michael Harrison, Cooksville, a steel mould-board plough, valued at \$18—presented by Amos Wright Esq., M. P. P., Richmond Hill.

4th prize, Wm. Brown, Toronto township, a plough valued at \$15—presented by Mr. Butterfield, Bradford.

5th prize, Jos. Chute, Woodbridge, three doz. of Sheep Tick Destroyer, valued at \$12—presented by Hugh Miller, Toronto.

6th prize, D. McLean, York Mills, a root cutter, valued at \$10—presented by W. Hewitt, Toronto.

7th prize, John Robinson, Sharon, a hay knife, straw knife, and screw wrench, valued at \$1 50—presented by Jagger & Ledyard, Toronto.

8th prize, John Todd, York township, a meerscham pipe, valued at \$1—presented by G. W. Carlisle, Toronto.

9th prize, Wm. Crow, Scarboro, a vest, valued at \$4—presented by W. S. Finch, Toronto.

CLASS IV.

Mr. JAS. FLEMING then presented the prizes to the fourth class:—

1st prize, Wm. Cox, Markham, a melodeon, valued at \$50—presented by R. S. Williams, Toronto.

2nd prize, Robt. Reid, Markham, a silver cup, valued at \$10—presented by J. G. Joseph & Co. Toronto and \$15 from the society, total \$25.

3rd prize, P. Cooney, Toronto, cash \$18—presented by the Society.

4th prize, Jas. Dickson, Scarboro', cash \$12—presented by the Society.

5th prize, Alfred Mason, Scarboro', cash \$10—presented by the Society.

6th prize, Wm. Brown, Etobicoke, cash \$8—presented by the Society.

7th prize, Allan McLean, York Mills, cash \$4—presented by the Society.

CLASS V.

Ald. STRACHAN—presented the prizes in the 5th class as follows: all the competitors being boys and the premiums being all paid in cash by the Society—

1st prize, Jno. S. Philip, Markham, \$12.

2nd prize, Jno. Mantz, Markham, \$10.

3rd prize, Jno. Ash, Etobicoke, \$8.

The following special prizes were awarded:—
1st prize, Archibald McLean, York township, for the best groomed horses and kept harness—a silver mounted whip, valued at \$25—presented by R. Malcom, Toronto.

2nd prize, Robt. Ormiston, Whitby, for the best competing team—a patent swing pump, valued at \$25—presented by C. Powell, Newtonbrook.

Dr. Ross, of this city, and Mr. Stewart of Chicago, addressed the meeting, and the proceedings ended with the National Anthem by the splendid band of the 17th Regt., by which the proceedings were enlivened at different times during the evening.

Keeping Goats for Milk.

In ancient times large flocks of goats were kept both for meat and milk. The flesh of a young kid was highly esteemed by epicureans in the days of yore. Large use was also made of goats' milk. We moderners, for some reason or other, make but little use of this animal. Here and there a goat is kept as a curiosity, but rarely with practical, utilitarian objects in view. We observe that as one result of the cattle plague in Britain, the keeping of goats is being resorted to more extensively, and milk goats command high prices. Having experimented with one of these animals the past summer, we feel qualified to express an opinion as to their merits. The goat in question came under our observation in June last, having been bought by a neighbour shortly after her kid was weaned. She was then giving three quarts of milk daily. Some time afterwards her owner, requiring a larger supply of milk than her goatship could furnish, concluded to purchase a cow, and we bought the goat. Our trial of her has been very satisfactory. At this date she gives three pints of milk daily, which is worth nearly twice the quantity of such milk as you usually get from vendors of the common article. We are inclined to think she is a rather better milk goat than the ordinary run of these creatures, but we see no reason why, with some attention to breeding, their milking qualities might not be improved. The milk undiluted is excellent in