

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

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THE DOMINION.

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The present is the season when most effective work can be done in securing new subscribers for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. Our fall campaign has begun with enthusiasm on the part of those engaged, and the results are certainly gratifying.

Changes of interest appear in the Premium Announcement on page 413. Note the Special Book and other offers.

SWINE—(Continued from page 400).

Rowe, Belmont, had only two pigs in the pens, a boar and sow, both under six months old, but so good were they that the judge, T. Whitesides, Innerkip, had no hesitation in awarding them 1st in their respective classes.

POLAND-CHINAS.

W. M. & J. C. Smith, Fairfield Plains, had the best of it in this class, although they had in more than one instance to take second place to Meredith & Dunlop, Thorncliffe, new exhibitors, who did remarkably well, as the prize list will show. Christian Fahner, Crediton, and Wesley W. Fisher, Benmiller, had a few head, but did not capture any of the prizes. That veteran judge, S. Butterfield, decided the order of the prizes.

BERKSHIRES.

This favorite old breed was represented by exhibits from six herds. Of those who were at the Industrial, T. A. Cox, Brantford, was the only one to bring his stock on here. He had strengthened his herd by the purchase of the first prize yearling boar in Toronto, and had a strong entry. In addition to the herd prize, he won 1st on yearling boars, 1st, 2nd and 3rd on aged sows, 1st and 2nd on sows under six months, and 1st on boars of the same age, besides other prizes. Wm. McAllister, Varna, had 23 head in the pens. He had in his lot the 1st prize boar under the year which won 1st in Toronto when shown by Thos. Teasdale. He was also 1st for sow and four of her offspring, and 2nd on yearling boar. John Ackland, Delaware; Geo. Hill, Delaware, and Malcolm McArthur, Lobo, had a few entries and won a few prizes. The other exhibitor was Christian Fahner, Crediton, a newcomer. Thos. Teasdale, Concord, was the judge in this class.

TAMWORTHS.

S. Butterfield, Windsor, awarded the tickets for Tamworths. J. C. Nichol, Hubrey, had a larger entry than he had at Toronto. He won a good share of the prizes; W. T. Elliott, Hamilton, coming next to him; while J. Hoard & Son, Parkhill; David Carroll, Ealing; Mrs. Hall, Lambeth, and Christian



A DRAFT HORSE PARADE AT THE TORONTO SHOW.

Fahner, Crediton, were exhibitors who won one or more prizes.

DUROC-JERSEYS.

With the exception of some half a dozen head shown by Christian Fahner, Crediton, Tape Bros., Ridgetown, had this class all to themselves, winning all the firsts but one, and the herd bronze medal. C. Fahner was 1st for boar under six months and 2nd on three other entries. S. Butterfield officiated as judge here too.

SUFFOLKS.

Joseph Featherstone, M. P., Streetsville, had an easy win in this class, having very slight opposition. J. Hoard & Son, Parkhill, won one second and one third prize.

ESSEX.

There were only pen prizes offered for this breed, and both were given by S. Butterfield, the judge, who acted here and on Suffolks as well, to Mr. Featherstone, the sole exhibitor.

POULTRY.

As usual at London, there was a great display of poultry, the 750 fine coops being all filled with probably two birds on an average in each. The generally excellent quality of the exhibits was a commendable feature. The old-time poultrymen were out and many new exhibitors as well, which indicates that there is a spirit of progress abroad among poultry raisers. The veterans did not have it all their own way, either, when it came to winning the reds. All the leading breeds were well represented, and some that were not very important. The general farmer who rears poultry simply for eggs and meat should, as a rule, limit his attention to one breed (or grade); and if fowls are kept for breeding purposes strictly, it is not advisable to have too many varieties, and these should be of standard sorts. It is much better to aim at rearing the highest class of some well-established breed than to experiment with novelties. Leave that to "fanciers" who have the time and taste for Poland, Silkie, Frizzles, and the like. The question is sometimes asked, of what utility are these breeds, and why should they be encouraged at all? In cities and towns there is always a very considerable demand for fancy poultry, and many young men and others not only contrive to make something from them, but cultivate a taste for pursuits that are infinitely better than many pastimes in which they might indulge. The judges were Messrs. Butterfield, Smelt, and Jarvis (O. A. C.).

THE DAIRY EXHIBIT.

Cheese.—As at Toronto, so in London—the cheese exhibit was smaller than last year, and doubtless for the reasons given in our report of the former in last issue. Still, there were considerably over 200 cheese on the shelves of the dairy building, and they were certainly very creditable in appearance, but under the trier were not so satisfactory. The chief defect was in flavor, and some of the June and July makes taking the lower prizes were much below par. The August cheese were very much better, and the whites were superior to the colored. Nothing could be finer than the gold and silver medal and some others securing leading awards. The problem of bad flavors is undoubtedly one of the most serious with which the cheesemaker has to contend, and it is a subject that will bear a lot of investigation. One of the best makers in Ontario this season found a most inexplicable flavor in some milk furnished him, and after careful investigation could reach no other conclusion than that it arose from a weed on a stubble field to which the cows had access. Many patrons do not yet exercise sufficient care as to the food supply, not to mention cleanliness in milking, straining, washing utensils, etc.

Butter.—The new refrigerator-room, with its double glass windows and doors, was crowded, the exhibits being largely in excess of last year and numbering in all 80. We notice that some lots of dairy butter were altogether too highly-colored, but the salting, so far as we sampled the exhibits, was satisfactory. There is room for a great deal of improvement in the way many lots of prints were put up. Some makers still persist in fancy printing and scroll work. A few of the baskets and the cloths wrapped about the rolls were simply disgraceful and should have been excluded from exhibition, as they would give a visitor looking for good butter a most unfavorable and altogether erroneous impression of the general run of our products. In flavor, too, one of these mussy-looking lots, as might be expected, was decidedly rank. We would suggest that, in the dairy butter class particularly, the Fair Association should provide uniform boxes for holding the exhibits, which should be

taken out of the miscellaneous assortment of packages in which they reach the show, and by discarding the rag wrappings the exhibit would be more uniform in appearance. For prints nothing but parchment paper wrappings should be used. The creamery butter shown as a rule was very fine. In the matter of butter packages we noticed

one very attractive tin-lined tub, with parchment paper also surrounding the butter, making a well-nigh perfect receptacle for the transportation of butter. The judges in the above departments were Mr. Hibbert, on butter, and Mr. Robt. Ballantyne, of Stratford, on cheese.

AN EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT.

A new feature of the Natural History Department in the main building was the section open to Public and Separate schools for exhibits (1st) of the life history of any injurious insect, showing the sexes, larva, chrysalis, etc., and ravages of insect, accompanied with a written sketch; and (2nd) of at least twenty noxious weeds, properly mentioned and labelled. The credit of the inception of this truly educational feature was due to Mr. John Dearness (London), Public School Inspector for East Middlesex; and another year will doubtless see a much larger number of schools interested and much more extended collections. As it was, with but a limited time to make the competition known, there were no less than fourteen entries in the weed section and two in the other, and we learn that some 300 families had their interest awakened owing to some younger members being engaged in collecting and arranging insects or specimens of weeds and preparing the descriptions. Cash prizes and diplomas were awarded. The idea is a commendable one, and will doubtless be the means of bringing out a more extended, interesting, and instructive display next season. It not only affords instruction for visitors at the fair, but educates the scholars making the collections and provides a healthful stimulus to the schools competing.

The British Board of Agriculture, during the year ending March 31st, 1896, distributed to some eighteen different institutions engaged in the work of agricultural education, £7,850—£5,850 going to England and Wales and £2,000 to Scotland. Dairy instruction absorbs a considerable portion of this sum.

In order to cultivate a taste for neatness and its attendant cleanliness amongst his tenants in East Drumchapel, Mr. John Black, of Cowdenhill, Scotland, has for the past two seasons offered money prizes for the best-kept plots in front of the houses in the village. The natural surroundings are very beautiful, and the tenants have every encouragement to make their plots bright and attractive.