

to it. From conversation with breeders and exhibitors, we are led to believe that the one-judge system, the appointment of a competent expert, is growing in favor, as by this system the responsibility is fixed, and cannot be shirked, as it often is when it is divided between three.

In the ring for sweepstakes for the best bull of any age, the competition lay practically between the 2 two-year-old bulls, Prince James, owned by Mr. Fothergill, of Burlington, and The Earl of Mar, owned by Messrs. Green, of Oakville. Both were magnificent animals, though of widely different styles; the former being wonderfully furnished for his age, though he had the advantage of five months over the Earl, who has but recently come through quarantine, and had nothing like the amount of flesh that his rival had. It was a difficult question to decide, and we are not disposed to quarrel with the decision, which was in favor of Prince James, though we very much doubt whether any one of the committee would have chosen him as his own to have and to keep, if such choice had been offered them. The sweepstakes for the best female in the class was by common consent given to the three-year-old cow shown by Messrs. Snider, of German Mills, a perfect model of a living Shorthorn. The bull calf and heifer calf rings were a very attractive display, there being 21 in the former and 19 in the latter, every one a good one, and these called out the remark from an enthusiastic breeder, that with such a nursery the country was safe, no matter which party was in power.

#### THE JERSEYS.

A breed almost in direct contrast to the Short horns, being bred almost exclusively for their great butter-producing qualities, without regard to beef, were represented by the two well known herds of Mrs. Jones and Mr. Fuller, and a very attractive and interesting show they made, with their fine, deer-like appearance, and their capacious udders and rich yellow skins, indicating that in many cases their pedigrees were written in butter as well as on paper. In this class the management had decided to try the experiment of appointing only one judge, and accordingly invited the well known Jersey expert and exporter, T. S. Cooper, of Coopersburg, Pa., to judge the Jersey class. The way he went through his work was really refreshing, and in great contrast to the dilly-dallying and delay witnessed in some of the other rings, under the system of consultation and compromise. The practical eye of the expert very quickly selected the most meritorious animals, the work was quickly done, and we believe that, on the whole, the exhibitors were well satisfied, and believed that even-handed justice, without fear or favor, was dispensed.

#### HOLSTEINS

were represented, for the first time, by a herd of 19 imported animals, shown by Messrs. Lord, Cook & Son, of Aultsville, Ont. The animals had just passed through ninety days of quarantine, and were in thin condition, but showed large frames and large milking capacity, and though they did not meet our expectations as to appearance, we are willing to believe they will prove a very useful and valuable dairy herd, as they have in other countries.

#### POLLED ANGUS.

These beautiful cattle were out in small numbers, but of superb quality, and attracted much attention.

The Galloways, second cousins to the Angus, were all in the hands of one exhibitor, Mr. McCrae, who showed thirty-five head, a uniformly good lot, and in view of the active demand for these cattle for the western ranches, a very valuable lot.

#### HEREFORDS

made a very grand show, and well sustained their position as superior grazers and beef producers. They were in few hands though in goodly numbers.

#### THE GRADES AND FAT CATTLE

were a very grand lot—all Shorthorns and their grades, which shows that for feeding animals the Shorthorn bull has been more freely used than any other, and that the other beef-breeds have yet to make their mark in this line in this Province, which no doubt they would do favorably if they were more generally used.

#### THE GRAND SWEEPSTAKES

prize, styled the Elkington Shield, valued at \$250, for the best 20 head of thoroughbred cattle, called

out only three herds, representing three different breeds; the Shorthorn herd of Messrs. Watt, of Salem, the Galloway herd of Messrs. McCrae, of Guelph, and the Hereford herd of Mr. Stone, of Guelph. These made a very pretty as well as a very imposing show. The judges were to be "the judges of all the cattle classes combined," the vote to be by ballot, but when the time for competition arrived only six judges could be found, and as most of these were interested in Shorthorns, it was hardly expected that any other breed but Shorthorns would win, though it was but fair to say that apart from any prejudice of interest, it would have been up-hill work to get over the Shorthorn herd shown, and the award was a unanimous vote for the Shorthorns.

#### SHEEP.

The exhibit of sheep was a very large one, all the breeds being fairly well represented, the Downs largely predominating from the fact that several large importations, aggregating over three hundred head were brought in direct from quarantine, and most of them for sale. This fact had a tendency to create the impression that the country had gone into the breeding of Downs wholesale, but on closer examination it was found that there were very few sheep in the show in those classes that were bred in Canada, certainly not more than twenty per cent., and we believe less than that proportion.

This feature of the show is fast leading to the demand for separate classes and prizes for Canadian bred sheep, as our Canadian breeders find it almost impossible to compete with the prize animals from the Royal and other shows in England which are being imported from year to year, fed and fattened as only the English shepherd, who devotes all his time and skill to it, can do; and our exhibitors, so far as these classes are concerned, are not what they are intended and supposed to be, namely, an exposition of the products of this country, but that of a collection of English sheep, bred, fed and fitted on the other side of the sea. We would not for a moment discountenance or discourage the importers of fine stock, to whose enterprise the country is deeply indebted, and who have done incalculable service at great risk in improving the stock of this country, but would make distinct classes for imported and for home-bred sheep.

Cotswolds were out in small numbers, only three exhibitors competing, and two of these showing only half a dozen each; Mr. James Main taking the bulk of the prizes with his imported flock, which included several of the prize winners at the Royal show.

Leicesters and Lincolns were numerous, and more home-bred sheep were shown in these classes than in any others.

Southdowns made a rich and rare show, and we believe largely increased their list of friends.

Shropshires made the largest show in respect to numbers, and there were many very fine specimens, but these were imported.

Oxfords were not numerous, but of very good quality and in very high condition and finish; there were only two or three exhibits in this class, and the prizes were principally divided between the Messrs. Arkell, of Guelph and Teeswater.

Merinos were represented only by two or three exhibitors in small numbers, and of very moderate quality.

#### HOGS.

The show of hogs was not as large as usual at the Toronto fair. Exhibitors complain that the prizes offered are too low to encourage them to come out in force, the prizes being quite out of proportion to those offered for other classes of stock, when the cost of preparation and transportation is taken into account, from the fact that they have to be carted and hauled from place to place in carts or drags, for which exorbitant charges are often made the consequence is a great many empty pens and a moderate show, where the wise expenditure of a few hundred dollars would call out a large and interesting display.

The Berkshires were out in largest numbers and of excellent quality, the Messrs. Snell, of Edmonton, being the largest exhibitors, winning the herd prizes as usual; Messrs. Sorby & Hewer, of Guelph, being the next largest exhibitors, followed by Messrs. McNish, of Lyn, and Hogan, of King, and others.

In the class of Suffolks the old standard exhibitors, Main, of Milton, Featherstone, of Credit, and Franks, of Caledon, were on hand with strong exhibits, besides several new men with a few good

ones. Essex and Yorkshires were out in lesser numbers but of fair quality. A few good specimens of Poland Chinas were shown by Mr. Baldwin, of Essex, and Mr. Ware, of Hamilton.

#### The Provincial Exhibition.

Which has just been held in Guelph, has been a grand success as far as the exhibit of live stock could make it. Guelph being located in an excellent agricultural district, where roots are raised to a greater extent than in any other part of the Dominion, excellent herds of cattle and flocks of sheep are kept, and many breeders had driven a long distance on account of the honor that has been attached to winning a Provincial prize. The exhibit of stock has been pronounced by many to have been the best that has ever taken place in Canada, despite the fact that some of our very best herds have not been represented at any exhibition this year. The exhibit of agricultural implements was very good. A very excellent show of fruit was made, considering the season. The display of grain and roots was the worst we have seen for years. The show of grain was most meagre, and had it not been for a few good samples, it would have been simply disgraceful to a county exhibition—dirty bags tied up, dirty samples, and but very little of it. The greatest exhibit of wheat in the straw was made by the Model or Experimental Farm of Ontario, and a viler lot of rusted straw and shrunken heads was never before displayed at any exhibition. The results of common culture, moderate manuring and high manuring were shown, and, at a passing glance, one would be inclined, judging from the appearance of the straw, to consider that the greater the expense for manure the greater the amount of rust in the straw and the smaller the head. In a corner of another building, a long distance from the one in which this grain was shown, there was a really very fine exhibit of straw and grain, sent from Thunder Bay and Algoma. The straw and heads of grain really made a grand exhibit, although only a small quantity was sent when compared to the exhibit from the Model Farm. These two samples shown by Algoma and Ontario should be preserved by the friends of Algoma, for they carry off the palm with flying colors, notwithstanding the infinitesimal space occupied by Algoma in comparison to the enormous space allotted to our Government.

The arrangements for the reception of the stock were most incomplete. The men were shifted about, the classes were not properly arranged, sheep, hogs, and cattle were mixed together, and one would have to walk all over the ground before seeing all that were exhibited in any particular class; and there was not bedding sufficient supplied. But the worst feature was that, despite the scarcity of room, and much of the exhibition stock had of necessity to be kept out of the grounds, there was a very large space occupied by the Model Farm stock, which was to be sold by auction on the last day of the exhibition. These animals, although in many cases much inferior to those owned by the regular breeders, was an allurements to purchasers and prevented our breeders making the sales they usually do at this exhibition. They considered that they were paying a tax to support this institution and it was injuring them in the sale of their stock. No doubt the directors had short-sightedly thought to increase their popularity by getting the stock on the ground and getting the gate money from those who wanted to purchase. They are to be condemned for not looking first to what is of benefit to their patrons, that is, to the exhibitors of stock, for without them what would their exhibition be? Had this Board looked first to your interest they would and should have acted differ-