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Ellesmere Agricultural and Pastoral Association.

ANNUAL SHOW.

Patron—Sir John Hall ; President—Mr R. B. Willis ; Vice-Presidents—Messrs G. C. Waby and J. Barnett ; Hon. Treasurer—Mr P. J. Henley, Auditors—Messrs W. G. Lunn and T. W. Durant ; Hon. Secretary—Mr G. Rennie ; Committee—Messrs W. Bishop, J. Boag, D. Buddo, D. Cant, J. R. Campbell, C. Frankish, J. M. Furze, G. Gossett, S. Graham, W. Holley, T. B. Howson, H. Hight, F. Jameson, F. Jackson, M. Jones, Jas. Lambie, W. D. Lawrence, R. Lochhead, W. G. Lunn, W. R. Maddison, D. Marshall, L. Mathias, W. Moorhead, J. McKellar, D. McMillan, P. O'Boyle, F. Overton, J. Osborne, H. Phillips, J. Rennie, D. Scott, Geo. Stevens, Sen., Jas. Stackhouse, W. Watson, C. Withell, W. H. Woodman.

The above exhibition was held at the Society's Show Ground, Leeston, yesterday. The beautiful weather had the effect of enticing out a large number of the general public, including many of the Christchurch business people, and of course, most of the business people of

Southbridge, Leeston and adjoining townships. In addition, the farmers of the Ellesmere district, as is their wont, were present to do honour to their annual show, in very much larger numbers than that of any previous year. We must not forget the ladies and the younger fry, who all in their best, added to the completeness of the holiday, and no doubt enjoyed themselves, quite as much as they added to the pleasure of those present. Not the least pleasing part of yesterday's gathering was the smiling faces of many of the old settlers of the district, who, apparently had come out with the full intention of enjoyment knowing in their heart that so far as the season and its prospects are concerned, Dame Nature had inspired in them every hope of a bountiful harvest, abundance of grass, and an excellent prospect of good prices for their produce. We earnestly trust that their hopes will not be otherwise than well borne out by the present outlook. At an early period of the day the ground presented quite an animated appearance, and shortly before the arrival of the Christchurch train, the judging of the various classes had begun in earnest. The secretary, the officers and the judges were at their posts with commendable promptitude, and we desire to express our thanks to the Hon. Sec., Mr G. Rennie, and the members of the Committee for their courtesy in furnishing us with information, &c. The Burnham Brass Band played during the whole of the day, and very creditably they did it too. The wants of the inner man were supplied by Mr Blackler, who supplied liquid refreshments to an extent which cannot be characterised as 'a roaring trade,' but no doubt was quite satisfactory financially. Mr Edwards, of Sydenham, had a luncheon booth, where the public obtained ample refreshment of a solid kind at a very moderate price. Mr Columbus also had a stall for juvenile refreshments, and there were also the usual shooting gallery and galvanic battery, besides other accessories to obtain the loose coppers from the youngsters. The attendance during the day was fully 1500.

CATTLE.

There was a very nice lot of bulls exhibited. For the Shorthorn class Mr Watson's Roan Duke took first honours. He is a grand animal and fit to show anywhere. In the same class, Mr H. Hight took second place with Lord Northampton. In Class 2, Mr W. Gabbie's exhibit took first prize, and Mr W. D. Lawrence secured second place with a really fine animal in Class 3. In Class 4, Mr Watson took first and second with two well and evenly made roans, calved in October and August respectively. Mr Watson's entry in Class 5, was well worth looking at, being a little over 6 months old, and showing great promise. Mr Nixon's entry showed good breeding, and secured second place. In the class for heifers, Mr Watson was also most successful taking first and second prizes with two nice exhibits, Mr Benny's Queen Mab being highly commended. In Class 7 Mr Hight carried off first prize with a nice looking rich roan heifer, and took second honours with another stylish looking exhibit, the two other entries by Mr Watson being awarded a highly commended and commended. Mr Hight again secured a second in Class 8, and Master J. Rennie a first prize in Class 9. Mr Watson took all the honours in Class 10, Milch Cows, and in Class 11 secured another first, and Mr Gaskin second place. There were no entries in the Jersey Class for bulls. Mr H. F. Britton exhibited two nice milch cows in Class 13. There was a total absence of fat stock entries in all the classes for cattle, and this appears somewhat strange to us, as we had fully expected the classes for this kind of stock would have filled easily in this district.

HORSES.

Taken altogether the entries of horses in all the classes were of excellent quality and could hardly be beaten anywhere. The draught entries were a grand lot of animals, and looked the pink of perfection all round. Blood stock was a good class, comprising such well-known horses as Burlington and Thackeray. Boston took first honours as a carriage entire, and a fine mare, Jean, as a brood mare. Mr Frankish's

Mexico, of course went out of the ring decorated. Larrikin, Mr Lochhead's handsome cob, of course scored a win; and the entire pony Brilliant Boy, and the gelding King of the Ring deserved their first honours.

SHEEP.

The entries in the various sheep pens were, although not numerous, well up to the usual standard of the district. The principal kinds shown were Border Leicesters, Lincolns, Romney Marsh, and Shropshire Downs. The Fat Merino Wether class was not represented. One entry only of 5 fat freezers, by Mr. Mathias, were noticeable, but do not however call for special comment. There was a fair entry of fat lambs of excellent quality. Mr. C. Withell was the largest exhibitor of ewes in the Lincoln classes, and his exhibits showed careful breeding all round. Mr W. D. Lawrence exhibited some really fine Romney Marsh rams and ewes, and deserves praise for his evident pains in the selection of the best possible quality. In South Downs Mr Threlkeld—that veteran exhibitor—secured first honours for a ram over 18 months, Mr Mathias taking second honours. In Border Leicesters Mr J. Boag had no less than 10 exhibits, all of which were of excellent quality. Mr J. Rennie's exhibits were also fully up to the usual standard of this well-known breeder. Mr P. C. Threlkeld entered some fine specimens of English Leicesters, and was the largest exhibitor in this section. Messrs J. M. Furze, and F. C. Murray also showed some good quality sheep of this breed.

PIGS.

Berkshires were the only breed of pigs exhibited, and on the whole of excellent quality. Mr W. Bramley's nine exhibits were all worthy of inspection. Mr D. Cant showed two very fine sows. Mr F. C. Candy's exhibits were good bred pigs. On the whole the animal "that pays the rent," though not by any means so well represented as we might expect in a district like Ellesmere, was of very

good quality indeed and a credit to the exhibitors.

DOGS.

Here perhaps, more than elsewhere, the awards did not meet with popular approval. The first prize in the Sheep dog class went fairly enough, but there were several dogs which might fairly have been placed over the 2nd prize bitch. Two splendid puppies, by the best bred dog in the colonies, and showing signs of breed about them—Mr H. Britton's Help and Lassie certainly deserved a V.H.C. card. The stock of Britannic, who is by Champion Metchly Wonder out of Lill, and who has scored highest honors in New Zealand and Australia, should not been passed over more especially when his pups show all their sire's good qualities.

IMPLEMENTS.

The display of implements was not very large, but there was a fair representation of the various machines which are popular in the district. First on the list came the

WALTER A. WOOD Co., of Hoosick Falls. Mr B. McClain,—better known as Mac,—who like his immortal countryman, could not tell a lie, dearly as he would like to, was in charge and to judge by appearances, was doing a roaring trade. The first exhibit was the Mower which shows several improvements on former models. It is a very close cutter, has all gear enclosed, brass bearings and special dust-proof oiling arrangements. It is light of draught and has stood the test of hard and varied work. Their Horse Rake also has many advantages. The teeth have great elasticity, being tested to a 25 inch spring. It is simple in construction and easily workable by a child. An enclosed gear Reaper came next, suitable for cutting anything, but more especially adapted to clover. Similar machines have been in use in this district and have given every satisfaction. A new arrangement is the regulator, for throwing out the sheaves as required. The Single Apron Reaper and Binder is too well known and popular to need an extended notice. Its close cutting, simplicity, ease of management and strength recommend it to everyone. The reel is strong enough to bear even Mac,—no light weight,—dancing a horn

pipe on it. Automatic gear does away with any possibility of choking, whilst the steel frame and brass bearings are everlasting wear. All gear is within easy reach of the driver. The whole machine can be packed for transport in about 10 minutes, and one great advantage is that all duplicate parts can be obtained without delay either from the head or the local offices.

THE BUKEYE

came next,—a practically frameless machine with specially low cutting knife. It is light of draught, with direct chain drive, improved Appleby knotter which takes any sized twine. All parts are easily accessible for oiling, etc. The driving wheel is self tightening, keeping always rigid. The same firm shows a Mower of equal excellence.

WERNER AND READER

had a Gig, built to Mr Rennie's order, of neat design and good finish. They also showed a Combined Stripper, Dresser and Bagger, showing several marked improvements. This machine was built too late for any real work last harvest, but its trials were eminently satisfactory. They also showed a Brantford Binder, and a capital hand power Winnowing of their own build.

THE MCCORMICK

All Steel Binder, and the Big 4 Mower, with a Daisy Cart were the exhibit of this popular firm.

LOW BROTHERS

had but one exhibit, a Whitechapel, an excellently finished, strong and serviceable cart; neat in design, thoroughly well upholstered and evidently made to last.

MESSRS REECE & SONS

showed a Toronto Mower and a Howard Digging Plough.

MR T. N. HORSELY

showed a series of force pumps, strong and simple.

THE HORNBLY REAPER,

the same machine as last year, completes the list of exhibits in this department.

PRODUCE, &c.

Produce was not a strong class, but the quality was good if the numbers were not large. The judges' awards gave every satisfaction.