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TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL FAIR OF THE OREGON STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The State Fair of 1883 has been a success in many respects, and deserves to have been attended by a much larger number of people than were present. The attendant circumstances combined to make the week delightful. For over four months there had been little rain and the roads were dusty in the extreme. This would have made travel over the roads very uncomfortable, but the fine shower of Monday evening laid the dust very thoroughly and freshened all our surroundings.

Since the railroad can run trains to and from Salem the great number of hacks that used to run between Salem and the Fair Grounds, two miles apart, is done away with in great measure and that lessens the appearance of activity both in town and on the grounds. There is no doubt that the State Fair was more numerously attended ten years ago than of late years. Why this is so one does not easily make out. Perhaps, in former times there was less of excitement and people through the country were more dependent on the State Fair for a means of enjoyment. Now, the country is more populous and we possess more variety to interest and amuse. It is also true that when Portland had not half her present population her citizens took much more interest in our State Fair and sent more things to exhibit as well as more visitors to inspect. That city has just been through a very exciting period, the climax of its history, in fact; no doubt that prevented Portland merchants and people from taking the interest they ordinarily do in the State Fair.

In all material respects the exhibit made last week was a good representation of Oregon products and was creditable in every particular. The display of cattle was excellent, even though some of the best herds of Oregon were not represented. The new interest taken in dairy stock was shown by the presence of numerous Jerseys and Halsiens; Short Horns were there in good number and many superior animals, though not pampered stock. These showed what this breed will do with good, ordinary care; running on fair range but not handled as expert breeders manage prize cattle.

The Short Horn remains at the head of meat producing cattle. There was a fair display made by G. W. Dimick, of Hubbard, Marion county, who makes a specialty of that breed. He is building up a good reputation as a reliable breeder of Short Horns, and his herd improves. He shows a bull calf seven months old, that weighed 798 pounds when last on the scales, a very fine animal; also a seven months heifer with excellent points.

James Richards, of Oakland, Douglas county, shows four full bloods and two Short Horn grades. Also some excellent Cotswold sheep. Richards is a successful breeder and makes good use of the Umpqua hills, which are intended by Nature for flocks and herds.

Henry Meyer, of Dallas, Polk county, is another old-time breeder. His fine, thoroughbred bull—Short Horn—wore three ribbons for different prizes taken. Meyer's herd grows better as his young stock comes in and show the advantage of careful breeding.

The display of Jerseys was good and shows how the interest in dairy stock increases among us. There is abundant room for such improvement since our butter comes in great part from California. There is no place in the world where a thorough dairyman can go to work with better assurance of success, and few countries where facilities for dairying are better than in our favored localities.

D. H. Looney took many prizes for his herd of beautiful young Jerseys. The Looney settlement is in Marion county, twelve miles south of Salem. There is no better stock region than that beautiful Santiam valley. He showed nice animals and all took first premiums but one. J. H. Albert, of Salem, had six Jerseys

on exhibit and they made a fine addition to the stock show. One heifer he sold to a well known cattle man for \$300.

Gov. Moody, of Salem, has a herd of choice Jerseys that were exhibited and merit attention for performance in filling milk pails with rich and profitable milk. The Governor pays more attention to milk than to fancy points. His cattle don't wear many prize ribbons, but they are true Jersey stock and fulfill the conditions of giving rich milk according to traditions of that stock.

Another herd from Wasco county attracted attention. They were entered by S. R. Thompson & Sons, of Jersey Farm, The Dalles, five head in all.

Holsteins divide the honors partially with Jersey cattle as dairy stock, though their great value seems to be as cheese makers rather than for butter. D. C. Stewart, formerly of North Yamhill, now of Forest Grove, Washington county, shows eight head of white and black Holsteins that are good specimens of that race. The Stewarts are heavily interested in stock, but transferred their fine Short-horn and other stock to their land East of the Cascades.

R. W. Carey, of Waldo Hills, Marion county, exhibited several head of polled cattle, the black hornless, Scotch cattle that are coming to the front of late as competitors to the Short-horn as beef cattle. These are fine animals and speak well for the breed. They cost largely and attracted much attention. Mr. Carey is enterprising and shows a variety of good stock.

There were good animals of various grades that show the value of crossing common stock with Short-horns. The fine herd of Reed and Ladd was not represented, that is said to be as good Short-horn stock as the country can show. M. Wilkins and sons have Devons that are worth attention, as that breed thrives well in this region. Also, there are Hereford cattle in our State that are good specimens of that breed. The exhibit was good, but might have been much larger if all sections had sought representation.

Our country is especially a good sheep region, and we have a growing reputation for quantity and quality of wool raised. At the late Fair the exhibit of sheep was good and creditable to Oregon. It was entirely an Oregon exhibit, also.

Of course the Merinos led off as the staple article. We excel in Spanish Merino but can make a good showing in French and American as well. The late exhibit was the best for many years.

David M. Guthrie, of Dallas, Polk county, showed French, Spanish and American Merinos, in full assortment, and of course carried off the full assortment of colors. He is one of the most successful sheep men and knows the point of a sheep and of a fleece to a nicety. He rather makes a specialty of French Merinos and showed some fine stock of all kinds named.

James Richards, of Oakland, Douglas county, had three pens of Cotswolds, very fine animals. He is one of those who heartily believes in the Cotswold as an animal we can grow to advantage in Oregon. This year there are a number of excellent lots of Cotswolds and it is evident that the interest in Cotswold sheep is increasing. The greater demand for and improved price of mutton must have something to do with it. He also showed a fine Merino buck.

Wm. A. Taylor, of Macleay, Marion county, showed four pens of Merino grades that took several premiums.

T. L. Davidson, of Salem, had an exhibit of thoroughbred Merinos. He has been a successful breeder in the past and has quite a good eye for the points of a fine animal.

D. W. Stearns, of Oakland, Douglas county, showed five French Merino ewes; five ewe lambs; five buck lambs, and took four blue ribbons for his entries of sheep and fine wool.

R. W. Carey, of Waldo Hills, shows a Shrophshire ram and a pen of Cotswolds

and four pens of Merinos. His Shrophshires are very fine animals and attracted much attention. They and those exhibited by Mr. Geo. W. Hunt, to be mentioned later, are all of this superior breed in our State. Mr. Carey took a number of premiums. He is commanding attention as a breeder and has a natural tact for business. His Polled Angus cattle show that he is not afraid to lead off in a new direction.

G. W. Hunt, of Whiteaker, Marion county, shows three Shrophshire sheep that are very handsome, with good size and all the points for good mutton sheep. They weigh largely, and with black noses and points one can see that they are very hardy. Mr. Hunt has several yearlings and a seven months lamb that is half as big again as an ordinary sheep. The two ewes weighed, for fleeces, this spring, 10½ and 14½ pounds. The buck's fleece weighed 15 pounds. He got snagged in the breast and died at harvest. This is a misfortune, but Mr. Hunt goes East with the Pioneer Expedition and will bring back a car load of the finest stock. The Shrophshires run with his band of sheep and thrive better than even his hardy Merino grades. He is so well pleased with the hardihood and heavy fleeces as well as the heavy weight of mutton they produce that he will purchase another buck and a number of ewes. Mr. H. exhibited two grade yearling ewes, one of which shows strongly of Shrophshire and the other reverts chiefly to its Leicestershire dam. The difference is striking.

We saw there a Leicestershire lamb that M. Wilkins was making a present to a friend that should have been a candidate for premiums and would have certainly won a blue ribbon.

Judge T. C. Shaw, of Marion county, showed four grade Merino bucks, and six graded lambs, with one thoroughbred. The Judge has a good turn for fine stock and has a fine place on Howell Prairie to raise them. We hope to see him come to the front as a sheep breeder.

Davied Craig, of Waldo Hills, Marion county, showed eleven Cotswolds and took four first and two second premiums. The Craigs live near Aumsville, in a beautiful rolling country admirably fitted for sheep. They have great faith in this breed and we expect to see them succeed well in it. They are the kind that don't easily give up what they have faith in.

R. C. Halley, of the Red Hills, south of Salem, exhibited three Merinos. Robert is a son-in-law of John Minto and inherits a turn for Merino sheep on the wife's side. He came off with respectable winnings.

Mr. James Withycombe, the well known veterinary surgeon, of Portland, whose farm is on Tualitan Plains, took sweepstakes for best families of both Cotswolds and Merinos, a double honor that says more than we could get into a whole column of particulars. He showed eight Merino ewes, a buck and five lambs; five Cotswold ewes and Cotswold buck, and five lambs. When it comes to careful selection and proper handling of stock we doubt if many men can excel Mr. Withycombe.

Angora goats do not excite as much attention as formerly, but they have well proved their value for clearing off brush land, so they are kept in sight and some persons are breeding them up with care.

Mr. Franklin Yocum, of Sheridan, is always on hand with well bred goats and was not absent this year. He divides honors with G. B. Miller, whose animals wear a number of blue ribbons.

Swine may be unclean beasts but a slice of nice bacon for breakfast, or a rasher of ham with a couple of eggs to take the unsavory nature away, are points that need no argument. Breeding hogs has become a fine art and Oregon pork is equal to any made, especially when made by Thomas Cross or D. Howard. When traveling in the Palouse country or south of Snake river, we have seen large lots of well bred porkers running in the fields, and here at the State Fair we could trace the creatures back to their breeding

ground. Chancing to meet Mr. Thomas Cross, we secured his services as pilot and visited the swine row with the privilege of his knowledge at command. He had no pigs entered for premiums but had on exhibit some forty head of very choice animals well worth seeing. He said that so many refused to show when he took stock there that he stood aside and made no entries, merely placing some choice stock in the pens for the public to look at. So we will review his exhibit: First pen—Extra fine Berkshire boar, raised by himself, and one Poland boar that he imported. Second pen—Imported Poland sow and one sow of his old Berkshire stock. Third pen—The great imported sow which he bought of Corbitt & Macleay two years ago, a splendid animal weighing near 800 pounds and with very high pedigree. Fourth pen—Berkshire sow and pigs. Fifth pen—Imported Poland sow and pigs. Sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth pens, each have a lot of fine shoats.

R. W. Carey, Waldo Hills, before mentioned in cattle and sheep lists, shows three Berkshire pigs that are as pretty animals as you ought to wish to see and a boar imported from Illinois. We venture to believe the choice, imported boar is not up to the pigs he bred himself. Oregon Berkshires are hard to beat, but his mingling of blood may, and no doubt will, produce good results. Carey took premiums on all entries.

E. J. Chambers, of Salem, showed a fine Berkshire boar.

T. H. McIntire, of Salem, showed three Berkshire sows under one year and took all possible premiums.

Wm. Harritt, Polk county, opposite Salem, took first premium on Berkshire boar two years old.

John West, East Portland, had two 1st premiums and one 2d on three Berkshire sows.

R. C. Halley, Salem, took 1st premium on Berkshire boar one year old and sweepstakes for best boar on the ground. That locality of the Red Hills "got away with" a nice lot of coin in premiums on pork.

HORSES.

The display of horses was good, as usual, and corresponded with the generally improved exhibit of all kinds of stock.

Thoroughbreds are well trained and we have some breeders whose stables contain horses with the best blood in the world. The Upper Country always reinforces our running stock in the fall. That was the case the present year. John Young of Walla Walla took first premiums on two animals. Some fine animals were shown by breeders from this valley as the premium list as the synopsis of races explains.

In horses of all work there was an excellent showing. This classification includes about all there is of a horse for ordinary uses and represents the animals we are particularly successful in raising. The entries are numerous and were brought from different sections, east and west of the Cascades.

There were many entries, also, of heavy draft stock. In this class Clydesdales and Percheron-Norman horses maintain a sharp contest with friends of both ready to take sides. The immense Norman horse or heavy Clydesdale do not answer the question but serve as a breeding source for supplying Norman and Scotch grades of the heavy draft and their half or three quarter breeds make excellent sires for the best of work stock when bred to our ordinary stock of mares.

Of farm teams there was a good showing. The premiums were awarded to animals of considerable excellence. It is not easy to draw the line in classifying horses. Every farmer with a good, serviceable mare can experiment to advantage in breeding for all work, or for draft or for roadsters, and so long as the animal can be entered in either class the owner chooses, it is difficult to make a close distinction. We find under the head of Farm Teams, two pair of "Carriage Horses." Evidently these were

misplaced. The classification of roadsters was added to the entry book and these were probably entered before that class was provided.

Roadsters, as we just said, was not an original classification but was adopted after the entries were commenced. Some entries previously made were transferred. The business is rather mixed and should be carefully revised and prepared for use before another fair is held. Our Portland daily contemporaries have never had a correct report of the award of premiums on stock during the twenty-three years that fairs have been held. Their fair reporters take an entry book and draw off the list of premiums correctly enough so far as a horse is a horse, but not so far as a horse is a thoroughbred, or of all work, or some other classification. Giving a list of men who took premiums on stock and not classifying the stock is simply ridiculous. In sheep there are a dozen classifications of families of sheep and goats, also of cattle. When a man takes a premium on a cow the farmer who reads of it would like to know whether it was a Jersey or a Short-horn. So of a horse; it may be a thoroughbred, or a Clydesdale or a Shetland pony. A sheep may be a small Spanish Merino or a large fleeced, mutton producing Cotswold.

Many good animals were exhibited but not entered for premiums. As in the case of Hon. Wm. Galloway, of Bellevue, Yamhill county, who is interested with Lute Lindsay in Hambletonian-Mambriño, a magnificent trotting stallion, brought here by Messrs. Reed and Ladd and sold two years ago at their sale. This animal, and others like him, was shown without being entered for a prize. It has proved so successful as a breeder, representing as it does the best trotting blood ever known, that the present owners could take over four times for him what was paid at the 1881 sale.

FARM PRODUCTS.

The display of Agricultural products, of all kinds, was admirable. Last year we heard the remark made, that any good grocers store in Portland could furnish for exhibit as good a display of fruit and garden products as were seen at the State Fair that year. The remark was drawn rather wide of the mark but verged upon the truth. The pavilion is a large building well adapted to its uses and this year it was pleasantly filled, chiefly with farm and garden products. The display of dairy products was small. There is where we lack, greatly; dairying should be an important business and it is lamentable to say that our valley towns use California butter and cheese nearly all the year. If any Eastern reader understands dairying and has some means to invest, there is no better place to establish a good dairy business than Western Oregon.

Several counties had good exhibits, to wit: Clackamas, Lane, Marion and Wasco. To give Eastern Oregon its due the exhibit made by Seufert Bros., of The Dalles, of fruits and vegetables gathered from that region of Wasco near the Cascade range was very fine. It had been shown by the Bureau of Immigration, at Portland, and they permitted Mr. D. D. Prettyman to remove it to Salem to show at the State Fair, for which material improvement of display the society is much indebted to Mr. Paul Schulze, Manager of the Bureau. These fruits and vegetables were raised on unirrigated land, a fact that is strong evidence as to quality of soil that could show such products in a year of unusual dryness. This display included melons and corn from dry bunch-grass land, by D. Creighton; pears, grapes and peaches from S. Creighton; turnips, cantaloupes and other melons, sugar corn and a large squash from Robert Cooper; similar exhibits from J. B. Welch, Theodore Mesplie and others; C. W. Denton showed forty varieties of apples, eight of pears and other articles, forty varieties of luscious grapes and mammoth sunflower discs. Others showed Italian prunes, monster turnips, a squash of 82 pounds, a cabbage of 24 pounds, berries, assorted vegetables, fruits,

etc., so that Wasco county could not easily have been better represented.

Marion county was represented by the enterprise of K. L. Hibbard and some others, who had gathered a handsome collection of products from various sections. These were on exhibition without being entered for premiums, they included seventeen sheaves of wheat, twelve of oats, three of rye, twenty-one sheaves of native and cultivated grasses, tall corn stalks with red or golden ears protruding, eight specimens of corn on the cob, also beans and peas. A large collection of grain was shown in jars. Their fair reporters take an entry book and draw off the list of premiums correctly enough so far as a horse is a horse, but not so far as a horse is a thoroughbred, or of all work, or some other classification. Giving a list of men who took premiums on stock and not classifying the stock is simply ridiculous. In sheep there are a dozen classifications of families of sheep and goats, also of cattle. When a man takes a premium on a cow the farmer who reads of it would like to know whether it was a Jersey or a Short-horn. So of a horse; it may be a thoroughbred, or a Clydesdale or a Shetland pony. A sheep may be a small Spanish Merino or a large fleeced, mutton producing Cotswold.

Judge N. W. Randall, of Clackamas, had a display from his his county well set forth at the right of the entrance. It included 44 grains and grasses, apples, plums, hops, tomatoes, corn and a box of remarkably fine peaches. These came from different persons and different localities. These county exhibits proved very attractive and we hope the Society will hereafter try to encourage such displays by awarding diplomas, or making some appropriate recognition to encourage them in the future.

Lane county was ably represented by Hon. M. Wilkins, long time President of the Society, who grouped the products of Lane county around and on the first stand to the left of the entrance. There were 42 varieties of wheat in the sheaf, seven of oats, 20 of grasses, five of corn, one of barley and one of rye. A remarkable fact is this, that while six grains in a mesh is the largest yield supposed to be possible in white winter wheat, he shows heads that have seven. Those who study wheat points will appreciate this fact. Lane county shows hops, a remarkable seedling grown by Samuel Bonnet, also a mammoth seedling from Hammet, of Mohawk. The exhibit contained various vegetables and grains and was all noticeable, but the most attractive feature was the wool cards of Mr. Wilkins, where washed and unwashed specimens of fleeces, including those from 21 Merino lambs, very fine, in 42 samples, unwashed, and another card of New Oxfordshire locks, 12 inches in length. These cards were greatly admired.

D. D. Prettyman, who has been traveling through Eastern and Western Oregon added much to the value of the annual exhibit by arranging in attractive shape 168 sheaves of wheat, 30 of oats, 10 of barley, 4 of rye and 46 of various kinds of grasses. He had traveled from Umatilla to Roseburg, over four hundred miles of Oregon wheat fields, had visited Wasco and Umatilla and Willamette and Umpqua valleys and gathered everywhere specimens of different varieties of grain and grasses. He had in all 275 specimens in sheaf, a string grass from Umatilla 29 feet long, and a pea vine grown by R. C. Halley, Salem, 14 feet long. Among his collection were grapes of the Muscat of Alexandria variety, of very great size and exquisite flavor, grown by J. W. Presley, of Columbus, W. T. Along the Columbia river, wherever they can find soil enough to plant trees or vines, peaches and grapes can be grown to perfection, as the deep canyons protect them from frost and secure the summer warmth lacking here. California never sent us as fine grapes as these. One of them measured 3x3½ inches and was but little above the average.

Through the center of the pavilion were arranged the usual assortment of bread, cakes, jellies, wines, canned goods, dried and preserved fruits, pickles, butter and cheese and small dairy products, pyramids of flour from great mills, and various things that we do not care to particularize. At the further end was fancy work that needs a lady's pen and a woman's stock of knowledge. The floral display was good, but the floral annex