

STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

The past few weeks have been phenomenal ones in the live-stock world. We have got clear rid of all suspicion of foot and mouth disease, and the Board of Agriculture has climbed down from an untenable position with as good a grace as possible. The whole country is declared free of the scourge, and we are breathing freely once more. Here in Glasgow we have also got rid of the bubonic plague scare, and as with foot and mouth further north, there is a general feeling that a deal too much was made of the business. If it does nothing else, the scare has succeeded in drawing attention to the evils of "wakes," and this is a decided gain. There is something heathenish about wakes, and hardly any means better fitted to spread disease could be imagined. Another plague or "scare" in the shape of a general election has also been got over, and the country again breathes freely. Agricultural topics have not bulked largely this time, and if farmers get little from next Parliament they will at least know that they asked for little.

The main features of the past three weeks in the agricultural world have, however, not been these things, but the autumn series of

SHORTHORN SALES.

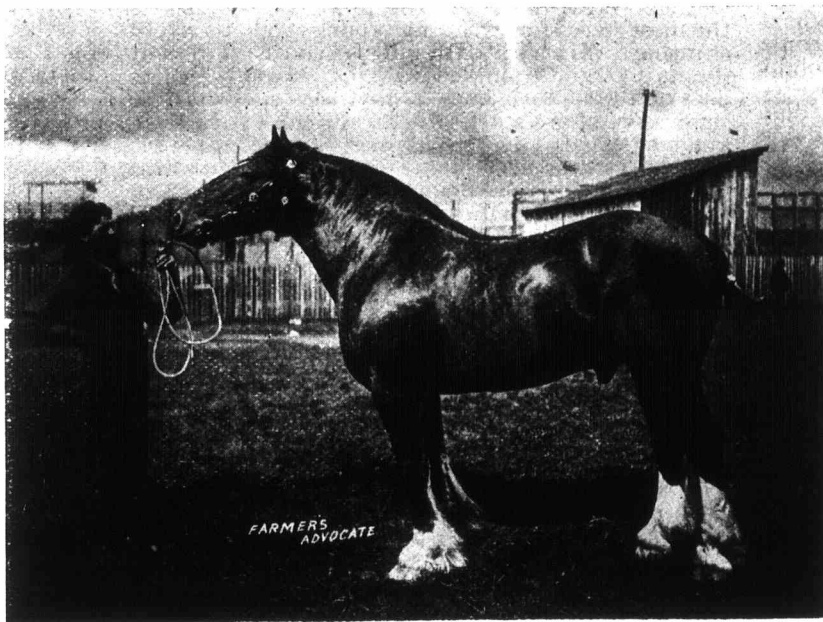
Nothing to equal these have ever before been seen in Scotland, and extraordinary averages for bull calves have been made by Mr. Duthie, Collynie, and Mr. Marr, Uppermill. The attendance at the series of sales conducted by Mr. Fraser, of Macdonald, Fraser & Co. (Ltd.), has been very large, visitors being present from the United States and Canada, as well as from all parts of the United Kingdom. The bull calves were scarcer than usual this year, and possibly this was one reason for the extraordinary prices made by them. I do not know that they have ever been much better, but possibly it is a mistake to say that they were the best lot ever offered from the two great Scottish fountain-heads of Sittytton blood at the present day. In England there is the famous Bapton Manor herd, and as long as it exists the laurels for Sittytton will not all go north. Mr. Duthie had an average of £150 8s. 6d. for 19 bull calves, and Mr. Marr got £126 3s. 2d. for 13, the average overhead for the 32 sold on that one day being £140 6s. 8d. apiece. No such trade was ever before recorded even in the palmiest days of the Shorthorn craze, and yet, although Sittytton deserves most of the credit, it is to be observed that the most successful sire was not a pure Sittytton, but an Inverquhomery bull, named Silver Plate 75633, whose breeding is Sittytton with an outcross of Bates. The foundation of the late Mr. Bruce's famous herd was a pair of large-framed English Shorthorn heifers, and all through its honorable history the late Mr. Bruce endeavored to maintain the traditions connected with this foundation. The result was seen in the greater style and gaiety of the Inverquhomery stock, and many considered the best lot of cows in Aberdeen-shire, Sittytton included. Silver Plate is a white bull, now owned by Mr. Deane Willis, who has the Bapton Manor herd, and the four calves after him, sold at Collynie the other day, made the extraordinary average of £271 13s. 9d. One of them, Silver Mist, a roan, made £315, and I believe goes to Canada. Another, Silver Bell, made £283 10s., and went to Mr. Harrison, Gamford, Darlington. This was regarded as the best calf in the sale, but as he was sold early and before the fever was at its height, he did not make the highest price. This, however, was made by another son of Silver Plate, named Violet Victor, also a roan, for which Mr. P. L. Mills, Ruddington, paid £372 15s. Another capital sire is a young red bull named Lovat Champion 74948. For him Mr. Duthie paid 200 gs. as a calf at Inverness in 1889, and four of his gets made an average of £117 apiece. The greatest number of calves sold by any one sire was seven: these were from Mr. Marr's herd and were got by the good old bull, Wanderer. These made £112 19s. apiece. The second highest price at the sale was £367 10s., paid by Mr. Jolliffe, from Stratford-on-Avon, for Primrose Pride, a fine young bull by the great champion, Pride of Morning, owned by Mr. Duthie. The highest price made by Mr. Marr's calves was £241 10s., paid by Mr. Ward, from Ohio, for Spicy Marquis.

The second days sale was held at Newton, when drafts were disposed of from three noted herds, those of Mr. Gordon, of Newton; Mr. Wilson, Pirriessmill, and Mr. Graham Stirling, of Stronan, in Perthshire. Twenty-one head from Mr. Gordon's herd, which has bred several champions in recent years, made £44 8s. apiece, and the average price of two two-year-old heifers in this lot was £108 3s., while three bulls averaged £13 7s. An equal number from Pirriessmill made £32 13s., but these were six yearling heifers and fifteen bull calves. The average price of these was £23 7s. 7d., a figure more within the range of ordinary mortals than those current at the Duthie-Marr sale. From Stronan, only

eleven head were sold, and the average price of these was £32 7s. 2d. Three two-year-old heifers in this lot made an average of £31 16s. The sale on the third day was held at Sanquhar Mains, near Forres, when drafts from two of the best herds in the north, owned by Messrs. Law, were sold and made splendid averages. Forty-four head from Mains of Sanquhar went through the ring, and their average price was £33 11s. 8d. Here again the heifers were in favor, 12 two-year-olds making an average of £39 9d., and 9 yearling heifers £73 7s. 8d. apiece. The six heifer calves made £37 16s. From Holl farm, 19 were sold at an average of £38 17s. 6d., four yearling heifers in this case making the fine average of £51 19s. 6d. The last sale of the series was held still farther north, when the herd owned by Mr. George Inglis, of Neumore, was dispersed. The 52 head made an average of £31 10d., 17 cows going as high on the average as £40 2s. 11d. Mr. Inglis was not an absolute devotee of Sittytton, although that blood predominated at Neumore as elsewhere in the north. He, however, liked a little "bit of Bates," and he had his reward in a good trade for useful stylish cows. His 14 heifer calves made an average of £21 11s. 3d., and his yearling heifers went as high as £12 5s. 3d., a very good average indeed.

English sales of Aberdeen-Angus cattle concluded this week, when 40 head from the herd of Mr. Crisp, near London, made the fine average of £31 3s. 2d. The average price of the 11 cows was £42 9s. 6d., one of them making 100 gs., while the stock bull, Governor of Aberfeldie, made the same price. Mr. Crisp is giving up the breeding of black cattle, at least on the same scale as heretofore.

Horse sales in the north of England have turned out well, and a grand trade was experienced for Clydesdale foals. The Seaham Harbor draft sale on Tuesday last. Nine foals made £30 4s. apiece, and 16 colt foals, £33 10s. 8d. Five yearling fillies made an average of £49 7s., and four yearling colts, £40 13s. 9d. The superb gray horse, Pearl



ALEXANDER'S HEIR (10151) [2557].

Imported six-year-old Clydesdale stallion; sired by Prince Alexander (8899). Winner of second prize at Ottawa and third at Toronto Exhibition, 1900.

PROPERTY OF T. H. HASSARD, MILLBROOK, ONT.

Oyster 10831, two years old, made 320 gs.—that is, £336. This is a very fine horse, and in spite of his color he is likely to be very popular in the north of Scotland, where he will henceforth travel. A number of very fine Clydesdale geldings were sold, and the average price of nine matured working horses was £78 9s. 1d. A pair of these—two immense horses—sold for £215 5s. On the day succeeding the Seaham Harbor sale, another took place at South Acomb, on Tyneside, when 10 Clydesdale mares made an average of £59 4s. 4d., and two three-year-old fillies went at £30 6s. 6d. At the ordinary auctioneers' autumn sales there has been good trade in Clydesdales, and generally this has been a remunerative business these times.

The great dairy produce shows are over, and at the Kilmarnock cheese show the championship went to Mr. Andrew Barrowman, Caigton, Castle-Douglas; while at London, in open competition against all England, the first place was taken by Mr. Hugh Hunter, Mossbog, Ayrshire, whose prize cheese sold at 1s. per pound.

The pig has the reputation of being able to produce a greater weight of meat and in a shorter time from a certain quantity of food than any of our other farm animals. As illustrative of this, it may be mentioned that while a well-fed, comfortably-quartered pig will increase in weight at the rate of 1 pound for every 5 or 6 pounds of dry food which it consumes, an ox requires to consume from 12 to 15 or 18 pounds of dry food (depending on the materials used) in order to produce the same weight of meat.

Questions in Bacon Hog Raising.

1st.—What is the best treatment for sow before and after farrowing, in fall or winter, in order to raise large litters of healthy, thrifty pigs?

2nd.—At what age, and what do you think the best plan of weaning fall and winter litters to avoid stunting and to promote the most thrifty growth?

3rd.—In winter pig-feeding, to what extent, and how is it profitable to use clover hay, ensilage, mangels, sugar beets, turnips, or boiled potatoes?

4th.—What grain foods, such as corn, barley, peas, shorts, do you prefer, and how should the food be prepared and fed?

5th.—What pure breed, grade or cross of pigs do you find most satisfactory to yourself and the packer?

6th.—In case you buy young pigs or store hogs, at what age do you like to begin fattening, and at what age can you reach the weights that packers call for?

7th.—In order to fatten hogs in winter and keep them free from rheumatism or other ailments, what walls, floors, bedding, sleeping room and space for exercise do you advise?

8th.—Do you give them charcoal, ashes, sulphur, sods, salt, etc., and how?

EXERCISE IMPORTANT—FEED MIXED GRAINS.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In regard to the care of very essential during the cold weather, we consider it broad essential to provide a warm shelter for sows to run in, as there is nothing so good for them as plenty of exercise. The sows should be fed anything they will eat in the shape of green food, such as scalded clover, turnips, mangolds, or sugar beets. These I would prefer to be fed with a little grain once a day. Sows kept in this way should be in good flesh at the time of farrowing. The sow should be housed at least two days before farrowing, to get her used to her pen and feel more at home. She should be fed on oat chop (ground fine) and bran, with a little oil cake.

See that the sow is free from vermin at the time of farrowing, and that the pen is dry and clean. Supply her with a little cut straw or chaff for a bed, and, above all, keep her as quiet as possible. Feed the sow at least three times a day on milk-producing foods, such as oatmeal, bran and oil cake, and roots once a day.

When the young pigs are about four weeks old, they will begin to feed at the trough. As the feed the sow gets is not just what they should get, it is better to partition off part of the pen and feed them a little milk or some such food to make them grow.

2nd.—The age of weaning depends on whether the pigs are thriving well on the sow or not. If they are not doing well, it is better to wean them at the age of six, or even five, weeks; but, as a rule, we get better results by weaning at about seven weeks old. Take the sow away and put her in a warm pen where she will not take a chill, and, in about twenty-four hours' time, allow her to remain with her pigs for a short time. Continue to feed the pigs as nearly as possible as the mother has been fed, but feed it to them warm.

3rd.—In winter pig-feeding it is advisable to have as great variety as possible. Feed grain morning and evening, and turnips, sugar beets and mangels (pulp and fed raw) or clover hay (cut and scalded) at noon. Boiled potatoes should be mixed with chopped grain.

4th.—All grain foods should be ground fine and soaked at least twelve hours before being fed. As hogs do not relish all one kind of grain, it is well to mix several grains. A mixture of barley, peas and oats is preferable for fattening hogs; while bran and shorts may be used to greater advantage for brood sows and young pigs.

5th.—We find the Tamworth takes the market as well as any breed which we have ever tried. As a cross, the Tamworth with the Berkshire makes a very commendable pig for packer and feeder.

6th.—As a rule, we shut in our hogs at the age of four months, and feed them lightly for three or four weeks, then gradually increase the feed. Hogs fed with a good ration of grain twice a day and roots once should weigh from two hundred to two hundred and 20 pounds at the age of seven months.

7th.—As a dry wall is certainly preferable in a hog pen, we would recommend frame or cement. The floors should be of good cedar plank, with plenty of clean straw for bedding. The pigs should be turned into the barnyard at least once or twice a week for exercise.

8th.—Charcoal, sulphur, ashes and salt should be mixed together and kept where the hogs can have free access to it.

As it is very necessary to keep a hog pen clean, it is advisable to throw a shovelful of slacked lime about the floor of the pen after removing the manure.

As regards crosses, use only the first cross. Another very important point is "black teeth."

At the age of two or five days, these should be extracted. By neglecting them, a whole litter may be stunted or lost.

W. W. M.
Wellington Co.