

the Loanhead sale on Wednesday, when the cattle of the Messrs. Gordon were disposed of, £420 was paid by an Irish gentleman for a heifer calf by Newton Crystal. This is relatively as high a figure as the £2,100 for the bull calf, and illustrates the extraordinary buoyancy of the Short-horn market. At Aberdeen, on Thursday, a joint sale was held of consignments from tenant-farmer breeders in Aberdeenshire, Inverness-shire and Ross-shire. One hundred and seventy-two head, mostly calves, of both sexes, made an average of £45.6.10. The highest price was 290 guineas, paid for a yearling heifer bred by Lord Lovat, Beaufort Castle, Inverness. Relatively the best demand was experienced for heifer calves. These of the Butterfly, Rosewood, Clipper, or Nonpareil families, could almost command any price. This week's sales, more than any we can recall for many years, were characterized by strenuous buying on pedigree lines. The votaries of the Cruickshank cult are rapidly emulating the votaries of the Bates cult in the seventies. It is well to recall this, and to suggest that such buying can be overdone.

Highland cattle have been selling at Oban, and with excellent results. On account of the death of Countess Dowager of Seafeld, her fold at Castle Grant, in Strathspey, was brought to the hammer. Thirty-two head made an average of £25.15.11. Another fold, that of Dunach, in Argyllshire, was also dispersed. Thirty-four head from it made an average of £13.12.7, and on the whole day's sale of pedigree Highlanders at Oban eighty-four head made an average of £18.14.6. Everybody is pleased with these results, a fact which suggests comparisons between the relative value of Shorthorns and the breed upon which Thomas Bates sought to model his breed of Shorthorn heifers.

CLYDESDALE VALUES IN SCOTLAND.

Clydesdales have also been having a great week. Canadians buy so many that they will be anxious to know the actual market value of what they get, in the native home of the breed. At Perth, on 16th September, 103 head made the good average of £55.4.10. These were almost wholly fillies and mares. This week we have had a three days' sale at Lanark. On the first, H. B. Marshall's fine stud of 15 head was dispersed, and made an average of £147.8.5. The noted prize mare, Sarcelle, by Everlasting, was sold to William Dunlop, Dunure Mains, at £656 5s. She is sure in foal to her own grandson, Baron's Pride, and the colt or filly she carries is either own brother or own sister to the splendid two-year-old, Baron's Crown, which was second at the H. & A. S. to The Dunure. If she foals all right, Sarcelle will be quite a good investment at 625 guineas. At the same Lanark sales a colt foal by the Cawdor Cup champion made £331, and a new sire, named Union Jack (16120), fairly established a record. His produce won first prizes in both colt and filly classes of foals. The colt foal sold for £190, and the filly foal for £130. The average price of yearling fillies was £49.7.6, and of 13 brood mares £56.15.5. We have also had a Hackney and pony sale at Fallside, Bathgate. Forty-eight head made an average of £46 4s. Twelve by the celebrated sire, Mathias, made an average of £85.17.0, the highest price of the sale being 205 guineas, paid for a three-year-old filly by this horse.

THE LESSON OF MERTOUN.

The world-famed Mertoun flock of Border Leicester sheep was dispersed a few weeks ago. Three hundred and seventy-nine head of all ages and both sexes made an average price of £5.1.3. Twenty-six four-crop ewes, that is ewes which have produced lambs four years in succession, made an average of £7.2.0; £24 each was paid for a pair of these, and this was the highest price for ewes or ewe lambs. The actual highest price was £25 for the stud ram, Invincible Stamp. The Mertoun flock was once at the head of the Border Leicester breed. It was bred within itself for about half a century, and its appearance at the dispersion was an emphatic condemnation of this method of in-and-in breeding. The flock herd or stud does not exist which can be successfully maintained without the infusion of new blood from outside itself. An aristocracy can run to seed among sheep, cattle or horses as well as among human beings. The Mertoun flock as seen at the dispersion read apostles of the in-and-in breeding cult a sharp lesson, which they would do well to lay to heart ere it be too late. If you are breeding cattle or sheep, always remember the butcher's idea, and what he must provide for the public; if you are breeding horses, keep the lorry in view. Thus only will you escape disaster.

SCOTLAND YET.

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There is more in the strain of the breed than in the breed itself, in more than one class of farm stock. Everyone familiar with stock-breeding has seen good and poor individuals of some

of our best known breeds. Because a certain herd may be composed of very inferior cows, it is not saying it is the fault of the breed. It is more the fault of the breeding. Because pigs from a certain breed of sows do not feed well that breed cannot be condemned. In every instance, if the records of the breeding of the animals were traced out, it would be found that it was not the breed that was to blame, but it was the breeding or the strain of the breed.

THE FARM

Raise Your Own Seed.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

For years past the leading agriculturists of our Province have been striving by both precept and example to induce the farmers to raise their own seed grain and potatoes. A small percentage of our farmers have benefited by this timely advice, but they are the exception to the rule, and it will be found that the large majority throughout our Province depend on P. E. Island, Ontario, and the Prairie Provinces for their seed grain. This should not be so. Surely a country with such agricultural possibilities as Nova Scotia has, should not be dependent to a greater or lesser extent on the tender mercies of any country for such an important commodity as its seed grain, especially when we can raise equally good, and perhaps better, grain than we can buy. It shows a lack of interest on the part of the farmers in their chosen profession.

The value of sowing none but home-grown or Government-inspected seed was, perhaps never brought so sternly to the notice of the farmers of Nova Scotia as it was this year. The Government-inspected seed could not be had; many had no home-grown seed, so they had to take what they could get and run the risk, which resulted disastrously for the harvests and pockets of many of them. Hundreds of farmers in the counties of Colchester, Pictou and Antigonish were defrauded by the notorious "Anchor Elevator" oats. These oats had been kiln-dried at a Western elevator to prevent them from heating and mustering and were thus rendered worthless for seed. Sold originally for feed, they were brought East by the train-load and represented as No. 1 seed. Farmers bought and sowed them in good faith. To an inexperienced eye they looked like first-class seed; they were plump, of good size, clean, and weighed heavy to the bushel, but they lacked germ vitality, which the farmers found out to their sorrow and the depletion of their pockets when they had been sowed long enough to produce results. In some cases the farmers had their money refunded, but that did not help their ruined harvest any. But this is not the only instance in which sowing home-grown seed would have paid better. Every year there is being brought into the country grain infested with weed-seeds which, when sown, produces the result too often seen in the grain fields of our Province. The writer took the trouble one day this summer to pick over a fair-sized handful of oats which had been bought for feed and represented as double-screened grain. In that one handful there were found 203 weed-seeds, 133 seeds of other grains, a large percentage of unfilled hulls, and a considerable amount of worthless material, such as chaff, damaged grain, etc. Of the 203 weed-seeds, 52 were those of noxious weeds, such as Rib Grass, Curled Dock, Catch-Fly, Field Bind-Weed, and others. Some of the above mentioned

oats run through the fanners and compared with home-grown seed, were found to contain about ten times as many impurities as the home-grown seed. Numerous farmers in the writer's locality bought these oats and sowed them without cleaning them, and the reader can imagine the result. The instances I have cited are only two of many. Every year the farmers are being imposed on, and they have themselves to blame. Rather than raise and clean their seed, or buy only that which has been Government-inspected, they buy at random, and get such worthless stuff as has been exposed in the former part of this article. Every farmer should have a copy of the "Seed Commissioner's Report," which can be had for the asking from the Seed Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa. All grain should be cleaned in a reliable fanning-mill, and treated for smut prevention with the formaldehyde treatment.

It is not only the raising of our own seed grain that will pay us. Present prices amply justify the raising of our own timothy seed, and perhaps clover as well. The writer is glad to be able to report a vast increase in the number of farmers in his locality who raise their own timothy seed. This has been especially noticeable during the past season, and it is to be hoped that it will continue. The importation into the Province of seed potatoes is not so extensive, but that it is carried on to a certain extent is seen in the introduction from Europe this year of the deadly "Potato Canker," a disease which threatens the potato crop with serious results unless the farmers co-operate heartily with the Department of Agriculture in the prompt effort it is making to stamp out the scourge. Raise your own seed and it will pay you every time.

Colchester Co., N. S.

"BLUENOSE."

Note.—This article brings out another important point in connection with seed of all kinds, and that is that it should be tested for germination before it is sown in large quantities. Had the Western seed been tested before it was sown in the fields, the poor germination would have been apparent, other seed purchased and the crop saved.—Editor.

Modern Seed Corn Requires Special Care.

By way of explanation for the special stress laid nowadays upon the care of seed corn, Wallace's Farmer says: "So long as we grew long ears with comparatively wide spaces between the rows, there was no trouble about the corn growing; nor will there be as long as we select ears of that type. But the minute we begin to select those with deep grains, well filled out at tips and butts, the rows close together on a small cob, then trouble begins, for the simple reason that this corn can not dry out nearly as readily as old-fashioned scrub corn. This, then, is the penalty that we pay for improvement. We must take greater care with our seed corn; and the better the type, the more care we must take."

One of the greatest secrets in pasturing red clover or in fact clover of any kind, is not to allow it to be eaten off when too young. Let it become comparatively well grown before turning upon it. Seventy hogs pastured from July first until the middle of October on a five-acre field at the Guelph Prison farm this season, and did well. And the clover was growing well at the latter date. Young clover is very sappy, and is not so good a feed, and is trampled down to a greater extent than the more mature.



Modern Dairy Barns.

Home of A. C. Hardy's fine herd of Holstein cattle, Leeds County, Ont.