

Notable English Shorthorns of the Past Show Season.

(Written for the "Farmer's Advocate" by G. H. Parsons.)

In spite of the fact that the resources of home breeders have been taxed to the utmost of late by the keenness of the foreign trade—a demand which must be met with the best only—one could not help being struck by the general excellence of the Shorthorn classes at the leading shows during the past season. Not only were the prizewinners themselves of considerable merit, but the animals which followed them in the respective classes showed a marked improvement and uniformity of type and character which cannot fail to gratify ardent supporters of the breed. This satisfactory state of things was particularly noticeable in the junior classes, especially yearling heifers, amongst which some really sensational animals appeared. The Shorthorn seems to be fairly booming again, and one very often sees where herds of other breeds are being dispersed, to be replaced by the all-conquering "red, white and roan." It is not proposed in this short article to give a detailed account of the past show season; but some notes and a few portraits of animals that distinguished themselves, and came under the immediate notice of the writer. [Note.—Photos by G. H. Parsons.—Editor.]

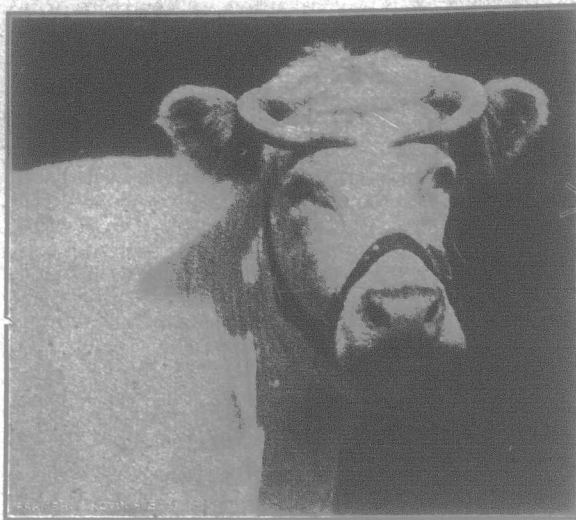
The Shorthorn campaign proper, usually commences at the Birmingham Spring Show and sale in March, where a very large selection of well-bred animals are always exposed for sale, and high prices obtained. This year was no exception to the rule, for the demand for the best was very brisk, and a large number of animals changed hands at prices ranging from 100 gs. to 600 gs.; the latter figure, which is the highest that has been recorded at these sales for some years, was given by that plucky representative of the Argentine, Mr. F. Miller, for the first-prize winner in the class for bull calves under twelve months old. This was "Loyal Victor," sire Franciscan (76711), out of Lovat Duchess (Vol. 47, p. 318), by Proud Duke (59718), bred and exhibited by Viscount Baring, of Micheldever, Hants. Brought out in the very pink of condition, the splendid symmetry, wealth of flesh, and gaiety of carriage which this handsome youngster possessed earned universal admiration from all who saw him; his beautiful mossy coat was of that rich plum-colored roan so much sought after, and his whole appearance proved him to be a bull of exceptional merit. In the hands of his new owner, Loyal Victor was, in the opinion of a large number of those present, rather unlucky to be defeated at the Royal Dublin Spring Show, but he was put at the top of his class and afterwards reserve champion at Belfast.

The Oxfordshire Show at Wallingford, which is the first of the important summer shows, saw the Shorthorns out in great force. Mr. R. P. Cooper's stylish dark roan, Rose Victor, was champion bull, and Viscount Baring's sweet yearling heifer, Lady Broadhooks 8rd, by the same sire as Loyal Victor, carried off the female championship.

After winning at the Somerset County Show, the Earl of Powis' huge bull Alastair (78217) secured the championship at the Bath and West Show, Swansea, a success which he followed up by also winning first and champion at the Shropshire and West Midland, first and champion at the Hereford and Worcester, and first and champion at the Welsh National Show, Aberystwith. At the Royal, however, he could get no higher than h.c. This massive bull, who scales 25 cwt., is a roan, calved in 1900, bred by Lord Lovat, of Beaufort, N. B., and being by that great stock-getter Royal Star (71502), out of Maggie Undine 8th; he combines some very fashionable Scotch blood in his pedigree. In spite of his immense bulk, Alastair is a very even-fleshed bull, and a good walker; his fore end is well proportioned and massive, his ribs well sprung and evenly covered, while his hind quarters are extremely neat, and his thighs full and deep.

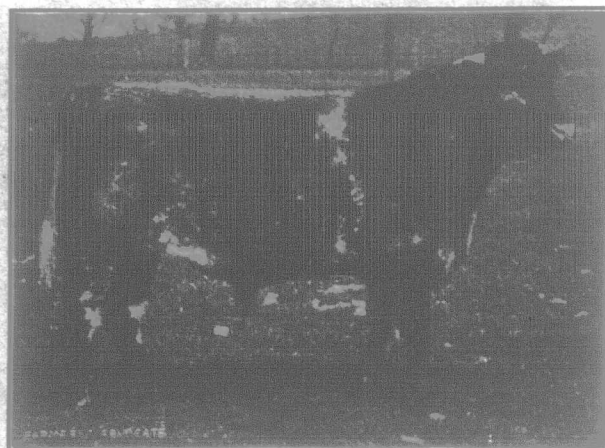
Another great aged bull who was well to the fore through the whole season is Mr. Tom Atkinson's (of Bury, Lancs.) Chewton Victor 6th (80686), a roan,

calved in August, 1901; bred by Mr. G. F. King, and got by Bapton Victor's Champion (76684), out of Countess XXXIII. In 1903 this well-known bull carried off no less than 28 first prizes and five championships at leading shows, and during the present year he won 22 firsts and 8 champion cups, as well as other prizes. At the Royal, Dublin, he was second and reserve for the Chaloner plate, given for the best bull;



Head of White Heather—A Royal Champion.

at the Essex County later on, he was first and champion, and occupied the same position at Otley, Darwen, Edgeworth, Ramsbottom, Ulvaston, Peterboro, and the Royal, Lancashire. The King's handsome red bull, Ronald, beat him at Park Royal, but only after a close struggle. Chewton Victor, as his long list of victories prove, is one of the finest bulls that has been seen in our show-yards for a considerable time. Standing on very short legs, he does not give one the impression of being a very big bull, but this is due to his extraordinary neatness, for he is really a bull of great scale. It is very hard to find a fault anywhere in him, for his level back, well-set tail, deep flanks and handsome



Loyal Victor.

shoulders, as well as other good points, stamp him as a beef sire of the highest type. Like so many other good ones he has been sold at a high figure for export to South America, where he should have a great future.

Coming to the females, we once more find Mr. J. Deane Willis' renowned cow, White Heather, head and shoulders over all her rivals. She has gone through this season undefeated, and it is doubtful if we have ever had a much more successful Shorthorn throughout the history of the breed. In addition to being five times first and twice champion at the Royal, she has

placed to her owner's credit something like £800 (\$4,000) worth of prizes, including cups and plate, a record that will take some eclipsing. Her this year's wins comprise first and champion at the Essex County, where she met Flora 6th, and was the first animal of her own sex to beat Mr. Harrison's wonderful heifer; first and champion female at the Royal, Park Royal; and first and 50 gs. cup at the Royal, Lancashire; in addition to other prizes. Unlike so many Shorthorn cows that are found in our show-rings to-day, White Heather has a grand udder, a point in which more than one champion in the past has been lacking. The merits of this great cow have been so often described that it is useless to dwell upon them here, and needless to say it would be very hard to find a more beautiful and typical female of this world-famed breed alive to-day. White Heather, who was calved in 1898, is by Merry Mascn (67486), out of Beauty XXIV., and her breeder is Mr. J. B. Manson, of Kilblean, Old Medrum, N. B.

Lord Powis' herd, which has been very successful of late, provided the runner-up to White Heather at several of the shows, including the Royal. This was Lady Sybil, who also secured first at the Bath and West; two firsts at the Shropshire and West Midland; first and champion at the Hereford and Worcester, and first at the Welsh National shows. She is a very handsome, light roan seven-year-old cow, of Scotch breeding, out of the herd of Mr. Morton, and is by Mandarin (69062), bred by Mr. Wilson, of Pirriesmill, and from Lady Mabel, of Bates breeding. Lady Sybil is an exceptionally neat cow, and a grand handler, who should come out next year very conspicuously at some of the leading shows.

As previously mentioned, the yearling heifer classes were very strong this season, and what a phenomenal animal Lady Amy 7th must be is clearly shown by her unbroken series of successes at all the leading shows. She first came out at the Bath and West of England Show, Swansea, where she was placed at the head of a very strong class; at the Shropshire and West Midland, Shrewsbury, she also won; then came the Royal, at which a very stiff tussle took place for the red rosette between her and the also undefeated Lady Broadhooks 8rd, the Powis Castle heifer winning; and next she secured firsts at the Royal, Lancashire, Hereford and Worcestershire and Welsh National Shows. Bred by her owner, the Earl of Powis, Powis Castle, Welshpool, Lady Amy 7th is a roan, born January, 1903, by Cornish Knight (78641), by the Willis-bred Monocrat, by Captain of the Guard, and out of Lady Amy 5th, by Master Archer, bred by Mr. Duthie. She is in her breeding a combination of Bates and Cruickshank blood, and is about as near perfection as it is possible to get in a show animal, which is saying a great deal. Her sweet feminine head, with its beautiful expression, sets off her magnificent deep front; her back is very broad, and as level as a billiard table; though standing on short legs she has great scope, and carries as much flesh as any two-year-old, and as an example of early maturity cannot be excelled. Her future will be watched with the greatest interest by breeders, for with ordinary luck she should be a hard nut to crack for the highest honors at some of next year's big shows.

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Lady Amy 7th.



Lady Sybil.