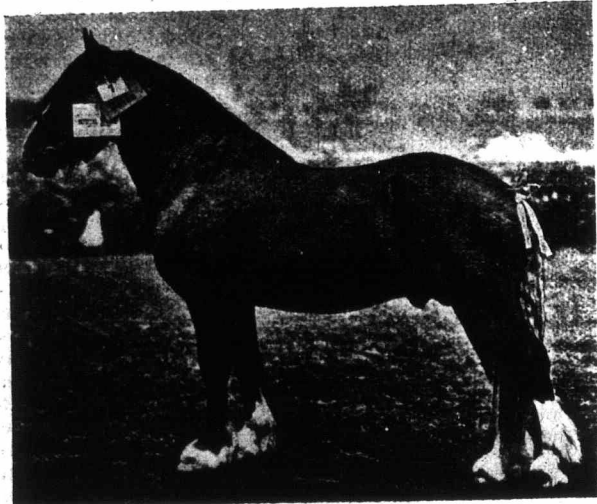


Our Scottish Letter.

The great events of the past fortnight have been sales of Shorthorn cattle in England, and the Agricultural shows at Edinburgh and York. Fortunately, the plague of foot and mouth disease has been stayed, and no further outbreak has been reported for some weeks. The disease is still raging in the Argentine, and all importations of live cattle from that quarter have for weeks past been prohibited. South American cattle owners were much in evidence at York, and indicated that in the South American republic they made no attempt to stamp out the disease; such a policy would be hopeless; they simply let it run its course. Great Britain and Ireland are fortunately situated for stamping out disease when it appears, and preventing its importation. The policy of the Board of Agriculture in this has been fairly successful, and it is gratifying to think that we have had no outbreak of cattle disease



BARON'S CROWN.

Two-year-old Clydesdale stallion. First at Castle Douglas, Edinburgh, and the Royal Show, 1900.

in Scotland for many years now. The recent outbreaks have all been scheduled in the south-east of England, and especially in the grazing and non-breeding county of Norfolk.

The boom in Clydesdale horses does not seem to be very lively, and we expected to have seen more buyers before this date. Several, however, have now arrived, and there is likely to be a little trade done. Mr. Neil Smith, Brampton, Ont., is sailing to-day with a few well-bred animals, and Mr. Ness, from Howick, Que., with Mr. Black, has arrived. Mr. N. P. Clarke, the noted breeder in Minnesota, has also entered an appearance, so that there will be some trade done before the season is over. The Hackney boom has also slackened off, and alike in England and in Scotland nothing exciting is taking place.

THE ROYAL SHOW.

The show at York had a good tone about it, but it was not in the horse department that life was specially manifested. The best section was that for Hunters, but the best horses there came from Ireland. Yorkshire is a very hilly county, and it is also the greatest county in England, being in extent very nearly the size of Scotland. It is the home of three distinct types of horses—the Cleveland Bay, the Yorkshire Coach horse, and the Yorkshire Hackney, which differs a little in type from the Norfolk hackney. The Cleveland Bay was almost extinct as a breed when the show last visited York in 1883. The breed then only mustered one representative—a solitary stallion; this year they made quite a good display, and were numerous represented. This revival is undoubtedly due to the founding of the Stud Book and the patronage of several wealthy gentlemen, notably Mr. H. C. Stephens, M. P., of Cholderton, Salisbury, Wilts., a long way from Yorkshire. Considered in themselves, the Cleveland Bays can hardly be regarded as ideal horses. They are well colored, having consistently bay-colored bodies and black legs, they have considerable weight of bone, and sound feet and pasterns, and they move fairly well, but do not appear to have much action or great speed. They have long bodies, which characteristic tends to make their quarters and neck seem short, and many horses have heads which suggest greater brain power. As chariot horses in the old days before railways were in vogue, they counted, being strong and stout and able for heavy work, but unless they can be utilized now as factors in making weighty brougham horses by being crossed with the Hackney, or in making heavy-weight hunters by being crossed with the Thoroughbred, it does not appear that they can be of much value in themselves. In some respects their shapes suggest that the Cleveland Bay has been largely employed in the breeding of American coach horses, and for a time the Americans bought them pretty freely. It is understood that capital hunters have been produced by crossing them with the Thoroughbred.

The Yorkshire Coach horse is a Cleveland Bay, modified by a Thoroughbred cross. As seen at the Royal, they are less bulky and pithy than the Cleveland Bay, but they exhibit greater quality, and are well colored horses, with long, flowing tails, which they carry in an attractive way. The style of these horses is undoubted, but their weight was disappointing. We expected to have seen more hand-

some, upstanding horses than were in evidence at York, and after looking at them, it is more impressed on our minds than ever that the Hackney, if wisely looked after, has in him the possibility of making the best carriage horse in the world. But the 14.2 animal must be discarded, and so must also be the theory that the Hackney is a saddle horse and should be bred for riding shoulders. Our observation is that the men who speak about the Hackney being a saddle horse are men who do not ride. The action of the Hackney is seen at its best in leather, and the sooner the idea that he is the universal light-legged horse is abandoned the better.

The Yorkshire hackney differs a little from the Norfolk cob, but mainly in respect of quality of bone and sweetness of formation. It is not a distinction in respect of type so much as in respect of taste. The Yorkshire man wants fineness and wearing quality, the Norfolk man likes a bit more substance, and usually he has a bit more hock action. The Yorkshire man can give you plenty sensational action in front, but when all is said the majority of harness show horses amongst Hackneys have come out of Norfolk. The hock action of some of these horses tracing from D'Oyly's Confidence 158 is remarkable, and you can scarcely see this action without finding Confidence blood in the pedigree. These views are regarded as extremely heretical in certain quarters, but without hock action, the extravagant front action of the Hackney is of small value in getting to market. The champion Hackney stallion at York is named Bonny Danegelt and was got by the champion Royal Danegelt out of Dorothy 185, by Denmark 177. His breeder and owner is Sir Walter Gilbey, Bart., who has written much on the subject of horse-breeding. Mr. George Wilson, Cedar House, Garton, had the reserve with the young horse Rosador, a son of the champion Rosador. The champion mare was Mr. Harry Livesey's lovely Orange Blossom, by the fine stallion Connaught 1453; Mr. Henry Moore taking reserve with the filly Lobelia.

Cattle of all classes made a creditable display both at Edinburgh and the Royal, and there were some curious reversals of form between the two shows. Shorthorns at Edinburgh were championed by a good two-year-old heifer owned by the Earl of Rosebery, K. G., which came far from getting to the top at the Royal. She is a good roan specimen, but rather faulty behind. The champion bull in the Shorthorn class at the Royal was Her Majesty the Queen's Royal Duke, a wonderfully level, well-fleshed animal, with a grand coat and good frame, but not too attractive about the head. He was also champion at the Royal Dublin show in spring. The reserve was H. R. H. the Prince of Wales' Pride of Collynie, which stood second in the class to Royal Duke, and deserved his honors. The Queen bred her own bull from Scottish blood, but Pride of Collynie was bred by Mr. Duthie, and was the best bull of his age in Scotland last year when owned by Mr. James Durno, Jackstown, Rothie-Norman. He was first at the Highland, and was there bought for the Sandringham herd by Mr. Beck, the Prince's manager. These are a pair of prime young bulls, and it would take a deal of money to buy them. The female champion of the breed came all the way from Cornwall. She is Mr. W. J. Hosken's Countess of Oxford XIV., a strikingly handsome red cow with a splendid head, good back and ribs, and great bag of milk. Her bull calf, New Year's Gift, was second in the yearling class, and had been first no one would have been robbed. The reserve female champion was Mr. Joseph Harris' Empress XII., from Calthwaite Hall, Carlisle. She was first amongst the three-year-old heifers, and is an amazingly sweet, level, red animal, showing true feminine character in the head, beautifully ribbed, and just a shade faulty at the tail, root, or she could not be beaten at all.

There was a really good show of other breeds of cattle. The Highlanders were out in force, and there was no breed more admired. They excelled in their walking gait, going over the ground with a long, stately tread which left nothing to be desired. They could teach all other breeds how to walk. The Earl of Southesk had the male championship with the Ensty bull, Laoich, a magnificent yellow, which has never been beaten; and the champion female was a three-year-old heifer from the celebrated fold of Mr. T. Valentine Smith at Ardtonish, in Argyleshire, which stood second at the Highland last year.

Aberdeen-Angus cattle are rapidly extending their domain in England, and the show of these was first-class. The leading prizes, however, came to cattle bred in Angus. Three of the bulls in the older class, the first, second and fourth, were bred by Mr. Patrick Chalmers, of Aldbar, Brechin, and got by the bull Enthusiast of Ballindalloch. The third was the bull Rosador, bred at Ballindalloch, and owned by Mr. Dyson Perrins, of Ardross, in Ross-shire. The first and second were respectively champion and reserve champion of the breed, and they are full brothers. The first, Diaz, owned by Mr. W. S. Adamson, of Careston, is the younger of the two, and a very fine specimen of the breed, except that he is a shade square across the hind quarters. The second, Delamere, owned by Mr. Alexander McLaren, Auchmaguie, Bullinbrig, is a very fine bull and a great favorite. He is a bit older than his brother, and has done some winning in his time. He has also given great promise as a breeder. The fourth bull, Mr. Bainbridge's Anneslev, was champion at Edinburgh. Sir James Duke, Bart., a Sussex fancier of the breed, had the first and

second yearling bulls, of his own breeding, and the Earl of Strathmore had the first and second yearling heifers; while the first two-year-old heifer, Sabrina of Hayston, owned by Mr. Bainbridge, was bred by Mr. James Whyte in the same county of Angus or Forfar. She was first at Perth in spring.

Galloways gave a capital account of themselves, and the prizes in this section were extremely well distributed. No exhibitor got more than one first prize, and none of the old-time men were in front, new men getting a look in with excellent cattle. These were Messrs. Henry Graham, Quarryhill, Wealsgate, Cumberland; David Brown, Lower Stafford, Auldgrith, Dumfries; Robert Jefferson, Rothersyke, Egremont, Carlisle; R. T. Scott, Drumhumprey, Corsock, Dalbeattie; and Robert Wilson, Kilquharrie, Dalbeattie. The quality of the Galloways was excellent, and they deserved their popularity. "SCOTLAND YET."

Determining Age of Stock by Dentition.

Nowadays, when early maturity is being so much cultivated in the case of all breeds of stock, the dentition of farm animals shows much more variation than was usual in the old days, when animals were not forced to a finish at anything like the high rate of pressure which has of late years been indulged in. One of the consequences of this high-pressure system of feeding has been that the leading show-promoting bodies—such as the Smithfield Club, the Royal, and other agricultural societies—have found it necessary to lay down special rules for the determination of the ages of such animals as are exhibited at their shows. The Royal Dublin Society, in common with the other leading agricultural bodies, has found it necessary to adopt certain regulations in this direction. We append herewith details of "tooth marks" which will be considered as indicating the ages of cattle, sheep, and pigs at the forthcoming winter show at Ballsbridge:

CATTLE.

Cattle having their central permanent incisors cut will be considered as exceeding one year and six months.

Cattle having their central permanent incisors fully up will be considered as exceeding one year and nine months.

Cattle having their second pair of permanent incisors fully up will be considered as exceeding two years and three months.

Cattle having their third pair of incisors cut will be considered as exceeding two years and eight months.

Cattle having their fourth pair (corner) permanent incisors fully up, and their anterior molars showing signs of wear, will be considered as exceeding three years.

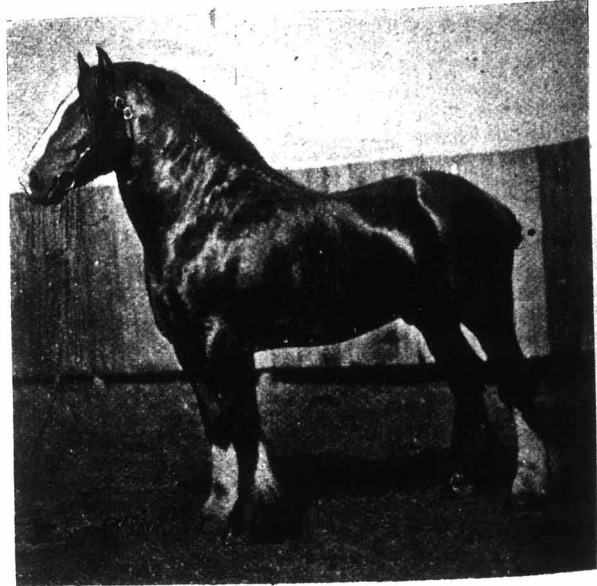
SHEEP.

Sheep having their central permanent incisors cut will be considered as exceeding ten months.

Sheep having their central permanent incisors fully up will be considered as exceeding twelve months.

Sheep having their third pair of permanent incisors cut will be considered as exceeding nineteen months.

Sheep having their third pair of permanent incisors fully up, and the temporary molars shed, will be considered as exceeding twenty-four months.



CLYDESDALE STALLION, McBain [2270].

OWNED BY JOHN R. RANKIN, MELROSE STOCK FARM, HAMMOTA, MANITOBA.

Sheep having their corner permanent incisors well up, and showing marks of wear, will be considered as exceeding three years.

PIGS.

Pigs having their corner permanent incisors cut will be considered as exceeding six months.

Pigs having their permanent tusks more than half up will be considered as exceeding nine months.

Pigs having their central permanent incisors up, and any of the first three permanent molars cut, will be considered as exceeding twelve months.

Pigs having their lateral temporary incisors shed, and the permanents appearing, will be considered as exceeding fifteen months.

Pigs having their lateral permanent incisors fully up will be considered as exceeding eighteen months. *Farmers' Gazette.*