

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

THE NEGLECT OF WINTER DAIRYING.

Agriculturally speaking, one of the things we stand most in need of in Ireland is the more extensive adoption of winter dairying. With the alert industrious Danes at our very doors, and further away the enterprising colonies—not the least notable of them being Canada, which promises to contribute a special display of dairy produce to our forthcoming International Exhibition at Dublin—all equipping themselves to increase their position in the British markets, farmers in the Old Country can ill afford to pay longer the penalty of a prolonged periodic curtailment, if not complete absence, of butter supplies to the English centers for a time each year. By his backwardness in this matter the Irish farmer is a heavy loser. His indifference is accompanied by inevitable disadvantages, prominent among which are: (1) that he is out of the market at a time when prices are highest, and (2) that when he does return in the spring after a few months' absence, he has to spend his time and energy—or, rather, the eventual seller has—looking for new openings each time into markets which, in the meantime, had been surrendered to the outside producer.

For several weeks past the various aspects of the subject have formed the theme of a most instructive discussion in the columns of the agricultural press. In the course of this controversy the argument as to the increased remuneration directly obtainable has been called in question, it being urged that if the winter supply of butter be increased, market quotations will be correspondingly reduced. This, on the face of it, appears logical enough, but considering that there is always a spirited demand for the home-produced article in preference to the imported, it would not be wise to press this objection too far. Hundreds of tons of Irish butter would be willingly bought up by British dealers if only it were forthcoming. With regard to disadvantage No. 2, nothing but unanimity of opinion exists.

Why, then, do not our farmers go in more extensively for winter milk and butter production? The replies might be grouped under two headings, viz., that the blame attaches (1) to the conditions, economic and industrial, in which the farmer finds himself, or (2) to the lack of energy that prevails among the farmers themselves. Of course the whole question is closely associated with the more general raising of home-grown feeding stuffs, which, in turn, opens up the much more formidable subject of the extension of tillage. It will thus be seen that the winter dairying difficulty strikes at the root of the present Irish agricultural system, but it is not too much to hope that, with the progress of the country's main industry as a whole, the

dependent adjunct of milk and butter production will undergo reorganization.

GRADING UP THE CATTLE.

The past few years have witnessed a striking improvement in the character of the cattle kept on most Irish farms, and for this happy result much credit must attach to the beneficent scheme of cattle improvement originated and sustained in operation under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture. As indicated in some former letters, the main direction in which this scheme operates is the subsidizing of approved bulls of various breeds, the owners of which agree to place the subsidized animals at the disposal of a fixed number of the smaller-class farmers in his district during the year. Now is the time, just preceding the breeding season, that these bulls are being "selected." This is done at shows and sales organized at various places throughout the country, while not a few animals are brought over to take part in the scheme by Irish breeders who attend the big English and Scotch sales at Birmingham, Perth, Aberdeen, and other places. An important event inaugurated "the premium season," viz., the Royal Dublin Society's annual show and sale, which took place at Ballsbridge about the second week in February. It attracted over 160 bulls, made up of 105 Shorthorns, 38 Aberdeen-Angus, and 20 Herefords. The Department's inspectors selected for the coveted premiums 33 Shorthorns, 19 Aberdeen-Angus and 6 Herefords. At the sale which followed, these animals were bought up by new owners from different parts of the country, at prices ranging up to 40 gs. and 50 gs., which, if not high, must be regarded as very useful.

TO CANADA IN THREE AND A HALF DAYS.

There is no knowing where we will stop in the reduction of distances! Doubtless the details of the scheme by which it is proposed to reduce the journey from this country to Canada to three and a half days are by this time familiar to many of our readers. Certainly the project is arousing considerable interest and excitement in Ireland, as if it materializes there can be no doubt that the country will benefit to a large extent from it. The idea—perhaps some may not be quite acquainted with it—is to build a pier, etc., at a magnificent opening on the western Irish coast, named Blacksod Bay, and to run from this point a fleet of fast liners to Halifax—an ocean journey that can be accomplished in the short period of 3½ days. It is proposed to build a new line of railway through the Western Province to connect the harbor with the existing Irish lines, while it is also suggested to have the mail train from London "ferried" across the channel and "run up" on Irish soil to continue uninterrupted its progress to the liner's side at Blacksod Bay. A very influential body is said to be behind the scheme, and Parliamentary notice has been given of a bill in connection with the project. So far as the preliminaries have gone it is not for a layman to prophesy success or failure, but we will all await with keen interest its development, if for no other reason than that it will so directly connect the two countries in which we—reader and writer—are mutually interested.

EMERALD ISLE.

THE FARM COMING TO ITS OWN.

During my Institute work this winter I have been strongly impressed with the optimistic view taken by farmers concerning their occupation and its prospects in the future. Ontario farmers realize as they never did before the commanding position their occupation holds in the industries of the country, and they note with satisfaction that with the great increase that is going on along all lines, agriculture still leads, and that on successful agriculture depends the success of all. Perhaps this has been brought more forcibly to my mind from the fact that the last time, some six years ago, that I attended Institute meetings in the counties of Perth and Huron the very opposite conditions prevailed. At that time farm property was decreasing in value, prices were low, and no one had a good word to say for farming. I find that in the counties mentioned great interest is being taken in the breeding of heavy horses, and that the trend of the stock interests lies more along the line of beef than dairying. I suppose this has come about, first, from the increased demand and prices paid for horses, and in the case of cattle, from the scarcity of labor; farmers finding it requires less help to raise beef than to run a dairy. While there is still a great demand for farm help, I do not think the situation so acute as it was last year. This has come about partly from increased immigration, and more particularly, I think, from the fact that many of our best and most enterprising young men have come to the conclusion that their chance is just as good on the farms of Ontario as in the West, and that the privations and hardships they have to endure as pioneers in a new country overcome, or, at least, balance all the advantages the West holds out.

One line of agriculture, I am sorry to say, seems to be on the wane—I mean fruit-growing. There used to be many good orchards in South Huron, but taking the average, nothing else is so neglected as the orchards. Farmers say there is no money in fruit. There will never be any money in fruit if more care is not taken of the trees, and a better system followed in disposing of the crop. I saw Northern Spies that would take a prize at almost any fair in the Dominion, and still the growers say they cannot sell them to any advantage. But, with a few exceptions, like those mentioned, agriculture along all lines is progressing. More thought and study is being given to the systematic cultivation of the soil, to the more careful breeding of live stock, and to that most important subject to farmers, the improvement of the roads and the beautifying of the grounds around the farm homes, and in those homes one sees the comforts and conveniences of the city, and on their tables the luxury and profusion that the city man never dreams of. Lincoln Co., Ont. JAS. SHEPPARD.

GOSSIP.

GUELPH PROVINCIAL SALE.

Following is the sale list of pure-bred stock disposed of at the Provincial Sale at Guelph, Ont., on February 27th:

Shorthorn bulls.—College Patriot, by Jas. Auld, Eden Mills, to W. T. Hambly, Drayton, \$80; Nelson Prince, R. & G. M. Anderson, Eden Mills, to Peter Onn, Arkell, \$60; Lilly's Prince, R. & G. M. Anderson, to J. Sherrer, Melkenburg, \$35; Inverurie, James Auld to Geo. Dodd, Gordonville, \$110; Canadian, C. N. Blanchard, Appleby, to Menno Madu, Hrisbane, \$67.50; Skidoo, C. M. & G. W. Blyth, Marden, to A. Barber, Guelph, \$60; Mathless Bruce, C. M. Blyth, to Drew Bros., Guelph, \$55; Alma Prince, A. Burnett & Son, Alma, to Henry Watson, Kirkwall, \$35; Roan Duke, A. Burnett & Son, to O. D. Cameron, Mountsberg, \$50; Westervelt, J. W. Cleg-horn, Moshoro, to J. W. Young, Harrison, \$65; Ramsden Laddie to J. W. Cleg-horn, \$50; Senator Loree, John Currie, Eramosa, to Wm. Hepton, Ayton, \$120; Rupert Rantin, J. J. Elliot, Armstrong's Mills, to W. A. Livingston, Durham, \$75; Willow Brook Chief, W. R. Elliot & Sons, Guelph, to W. S. Elliot, Morrisburg, \$65; Woodfield Lad, J. L. & T. G. Gibb, St. Catharines, to J. H. Robinson, Anderson, \$100; Count of Woodfield, J. L. & T. Gibb, to J. L. Wilson, Gorrie, \$100; Fairmount Jupiter 2nd, G. R. Gies, Heidelberg, to M. Ferguson, Harriston, \$75; Montrose, Wm. Hendrie, Hamilton, to W. Hamilton, Bright, \$50; Lord Minto, Wm. Hendrie, to J. T. McNiven, Ancaster, \$55; The McIntosh, Wm. Hendrie, to J. R. Mickie, Eden Mills, \$35; Ora Buckingham, Wm. Hamilton, Bright, to Jno. McIntosh, Marden, \$102.50; Ramsden Boy, J. L. Howard, Sutton West, to D. K. Mc-

Donald, \$70; Ramsden Lad, J. L. Howard, to S. Millson, Eramosa, \$60; Sherring, R. Harvey, Guelph, to H. Kean, \$55; Ronald, J. M. Irwin, Branchton, to A. Hales, Guelph, \$35; Butter King, J. M. Irwin, to A. Thompson, Fergus, \$35; Dumfries, J. M. Irwin, to W. F. Barber, Guelph, \$27.50; Seddington Hero, J. E. Meyer, Gourcock, to D. E. Slatters, Holyrood, \$65; Myrtle Chief, T. C. McAvoy, Balsam, to Geo. McGill, Guelph, \$70; Daisy's Royal, T. C. McAvoy, to J. W. Taylor, \$65; Captain's Pride 2nd, John McAninch, Crieff, to W. Stallibrass, \$85; Roan Hampton, Jno. McFarlane, Eden Mills, to Jared Marcey, Valens, \$50; Victor's Beau, Alex. McIntosh, Pentland, to A. Barber, \$60; Sir John E. Parkinson, Eramosa, to W. H. Schultze, Puslinch, \$65; Royal Oak, A. Robinson, Eden Mills, to A. W. Rosson, Valens, \$57.50; Ramsden Laddie, T. Scott & Son, Sutton West, to Geo. Zettell, New Germany, \$40; Reward, Alex. Stewart, Clyde, to W. H. Patterson, Moffat, \$80; Hillcrest Beau, D. Talbot & Son, Everton, to E. Cressman, New Hamburg, \$67.50; Grange Senator, D. Talbot & Son, to W. H. Newlove, Macville, \$105; Senator Chesterfield, D. Talbot & Son, to W. S. Whale, Goldstone, \$75; Primrose Matchless, Herbert Wright, Guelph, to Alex. Wilson, Sand Hill, \$90; Royal Primrose, H. Wright, to W. McKenzie, Rockwood, \$95; Royal Primrose, D. W. Wright, Ponsonby, to A. McCormack, Killeen, \$52.50; Golden Signet 2nd, A. & W. Whitelaw, Guelph, to Hugh Ross, Aberfoyle, \$47.50; The Boss, D. Campbell, Clifford, to Geo. Bennett, Carlisle, \$30; Females.—Pearl Buckingham, Wm. Hamilton, Bright, to Kyle Beck, Ayr, \$50; Princess May, John McQuinch, Crieff, to A. W. Beattie, Blair, \$62.50; Sutton Belle 7th, T. Scott & Son, to J. R. Thompson, Carberry, \$50; Wm. Stutt-

Forest, to Wm. Hamilton, Guelph, \$52.50; Bobs, Wm. Stutt, to Wm. Hamilton, \$50.

Aberdeen-Angus bull.—Whithouse Boy, R. W. McKinnon, Coningsby, to M. I. J. Scott, Killeen, \$75.

Mr. James Snell, Clinton, Ont., offers for sale in his advertisement two extra good young Shorthorn bulls, sired by Imp. Scottish Peer, a Western Fair winner, and a bull of exceptionally good type and quality. These young bulls should find ready buyers now that the price and prospects for beef cattle are so good. The indications are that beef cattle are going to be scarce and dear, and, as usual, the best are in demand and sell highest. Farmers should make it a point to improve their cattle by using good bulls, and these can be secured now at very moderate prices.

J. A. BOAG & SON'S CLYDESDALES.

There certainly is not a man in the business of importing Clydesdales to Canada that better knows the class of horse most needed in this country to increase the size of our drafters than John A. Boag, of Ravenshoe, Ont., who needs no introduction, he having officiated as judge in the leading Canadian show-rings for many years, a man whom neither fear nor favor can influence in his judgment. His various importations are recognized by competent judges as among the best that lands on our shores, combining size, character and quality, with true, straight action. Just now, he has on hand three stallions and seven fillies, an exceptionally choice lot. The stallions are: Lord Newlands (imp.) 6468, by Good as Gold, dam by Rosedale. He is a bay, rising three, and cannot be better described than to say that last summer,

at Lesmahagow, he won first and the silver medal as the best horse on the grounds. He is an exceedingly thick, smooth colt, full of character. Ardnahoe (imp.) 4501, by Pride of Blacon, dam by Mountain King, grandam by Gold Dust, is a bay, rising three, that has several firsts to his credit in Scotland, and will make considerably over-a-ton horse, having style, character, quality, and the best possible kind of underpinning—a rare good colt. Forclen Chief (imp.) 4529 is another bay, rising three, by Hillhead Chief, dam by Prince of Carruchan, grandam by Darnley Hero. He, too, will make over-a-ton-weight horse, being very powerfully built, with a wonderful amount of style and quality, one of the very best colts brought out last year. All these colts are true, straight actors, and are just the kind needed in this country. The fillies are the get of such noted sires as Lord Londonderry, Mar-mion, Sir Mark, Frivolty, Garty Brand, Jubilee Lord, and Sir Everest. As a big, quality lot, they stand unexcelled by any importation last year, their conformation and underpinning being as nearly perfect as they are grown, and what is of more importance to intending purchasers, they can be bought for less money than they would fetch at an auction sale. In fact, Messrs. Boag's motto is a quick turnover, with a small profit. They also imported the exceedingly richly-bred Hackney stallion, Blanch Surprise—368—(8715), a chestnut rising four, by the champion Rosador, dam Blanch Primrose, by Garton Duke of Connaught. Last year, in a class of 50, at London, he was placed fifth, which speaks stronger than words as to his individuality, character, style and action. Write Mr. Boag, at Ravenshoe P. O., Ont. His station is Brown Hill, G. T. R., four miles, on the east, or Newmarket, 14 miles, on the west.