

"trade" to the storekeeper who has much trouble in getting rid, even at less than cost, of such samples. Few of us have decent dairies; the cellar flavor gets into the milk except when Cooley cans are used, and considering our opportunities it is surprising to find such lots of choice butter put on exhibition. The prairie herbage ensures a fine flavor, and it is a hard task even for an expert to do level justice. I would like to see a standard of honorable mention set up in which every maker within 70 per cent. of perfection should have a place, with a chance of moving it a peg or two higher in case she had not got full justice on the first review.

In vegetables I have seen bushels of potatoes over 2 lbs. each, plenty of onions over 1 lb., cabbage 25 lbs. dressed, and cauliflower 10 lbs. dressed, from a small farmer's garden.

Grain from 66½ lbs. a bushel for Red Fife, and 66 lbs. on White at Portage la Prairie, to bright plump large grain from nearly the northern limit of wheat cultivation, north of Neepawa. Oats and barley are low in weight as well as in yield, as compared with former years, the Experimental Farm at Brandon showing the best samples of these to be found in the country.

Horse flesh is the most conspicuous feature at all our fairs, and we go a good deal more on the business than the fancy article. Farmers, as a rule, have too little money and too much sense to be led into the trotting business, though a few very respectable men do gratify their leanings that way. Our main stallion and bull shows are held in spring, and it is only at the smaller shows that entire horses figure. Brood mares and colts are always a full and good show, but mostly of the general purpose tribe. A good few high-priced Clyde mares have been coming in, some of them in foal to very good horses, but those foals make extremely little noise at fairs, and I suspect at home too. Most of them, I guess, have been brought here in a pampered, over-fed condition, have had too little regular exercise and a consequent difficulty in foaling. These fancy mares and over-big horses are the best friends to the veterinarians we have yet seen here, and I cannot find any big returns made by their importers. Every-day mares put to moderate sized and well-mettled horses, give a perfectly good account of themselves, and will in time, save us a good deal of the money that has been, these last two years, finding its way to Ontario to buy horse flesh. I guess most of us are pretty well loaded up, or rather, loaded down with our last year's investments in showy teams of mares, and you will not sell us so many next season.

Shorthorns are our mainstay in cattle. We are at the general purpose stage of cattle experience and they fill nearly the whole field, with a few Ayrshires, Angus, Holsteins, and Jerseys. George Smellie, of Binscarth, and J. E. Smith, of Brandon, are in the front-line as breeders and importers, the Sharman's, of Plum Creek, who have turned out some very good stock, being, I regret to say, about to go out of business. Messrs. Lister, Middle Church, a new man; Lynch, Totogan, our oldest, and Frazer, Minnedosa; Shanks, Nisbet and Mansfield, Rapid City; Barron, Carberry; Leask, Proctor and Routledge, Virden; all showing very good, well-handled stock at our local fairs. The finest lot of working oxen I have ever seen were last week placed at Minnedosa, where an Icelandic immigrant got first for a beautiful pair of blacks. Sheep and pigs are few in number as compared with cattle and not likely to multiply under present conditions. Altogether our fall fairs have been capital with no exceptions known to me. I find cases now here and there on the Portage plains with good areas, having up to 40 bushels per acre of yield and

fine quality. In a good many cases smut shows to a serious extent, and where threshed in damp weather, the price has been pulled down a good few cents in consequence. There are men here who have sown wheat for fifteen years without developing any smut and it is now in order for us to find out why the others are infected.

For the CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

Clydesdales.

By D. McCRAK, Guelph, Ont.

The past year has been a fairly satisfactory one for the Clydesdale breeders and importers. The losses to importers in crossing the Atlantic have been very much less than usual. The percentage of loss for this year must be much smaller than many former years. This may be accounted for by the fact that the season has been especially favorable, as weather goes on the Atlantic, and also by the greater experience of importers. The class of horses brought out has been fairly good. The heavy draught classes at the late Provincial Show at London was a walk-over for the Clydes. It was simply the Clydes *first* and the rest *nowhere*. In the female classes in which Clydes and Shires came into competition, only one of the latter came in for a third prize. Suffolks and Percherons—the bare-legged draughts—were very little better. At the Toronto Industrial show of Clydes was also very much superior to that of any other draught breed. The Canadian farmers have certainly shown a very marked preference for the best of the draught breeds.

The public taste is gradually coming to prefer quality to size—feet and legs to a big beefy body. Quality of bone and good action are more looked to than formerly, and over-fed, sleek, shiny bodies do not now weigh much in the scale when accompanied by round bone, coarse hair, a wide, straggling gait, and thin, poor hoofs under straight, upright pasterns. This is a tendency in the right direction. If the patrons of our best draught horses would give the preference to those animals that had during the winter done a great deal of hard work in harness, it would be another step in the right direction. This seems at present a good way off. There is no doubt but many animals would be much healthier and would breed much better stock—with more vitality—if, instead of a winter's pampering in idleness, these same animals were put to good, useful, hard work.

Color in Clydes is not yet a fixed quantity. There was a splendid show of two-year-old fillies at Toronto, very uniform in color—white stripe on face, two white hind-stockings, a little white on one fore-foot, and bodies a rich bay. This seems to be about the most fashionable type in color at present. Bay with black points, without any white, are not desirable. It is rare to find a first-class horse of this color. Roans are not scarce. In some sections of Scotland there are many Clydes of light color—a great deal of white, or light roans. The old saw is there often quoted: "A good horse is never a bad color." Yet a good horse is more saleable when his color is pleasing to the eye of his buyer, and this is a point not to be despised. Family traits have not yet become fixed factors in Clyde breeding, but that time is coming, and will probably be here soon when they will so be.

The show season is now well over in Scotland, and "Ravenswood" has been summing up the results in the *Chicago Breeders' Gazette*. He takes the prize-winners at the following shows in Scotland: Glasgow

Spring and Fall, Ayr, Kilmarnock, Maryhill, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, the Highland Society Show at Melrose, and the Royal of England at Windsor. In placing the winning sires, account is taken of the number of prizes and relative value. The following is the roll of honor: 1, Darnley (222); 2, Prince of Wales (673); 3, Macgregor (1487); 4, Prince Lawrence (Vol. VII.); 5, Top Gallant (1850); 6, St. Lawrence (3220); 7, Prince of Avondale; 8, Lord Erskine (1744). Of these eight sires which make the short cut, only two are now alive—Macgregor and Lord Erskine. Darnley has for several years kept first place. This year there are no yearlings got by him, and of course, as his produce become older, he will drop back from his present position. The animals which did best of his produce were Flashwood, Ensign, Eastfield Stamp, and Royalist, in stallions, and the mares Chrystal, Laura Lee, Vanora, Sunrise, and Scottish Rose. One point in all the list is made very clear—the widespread influence exerted in Clydesdale breeding by the mare Keir Peggy (187), the dam of Darnley, and to go a step back, by Samson (741), *alias* Logan's Tom, the sire of the dams of Darnley, Prince of Wales, Old Times, and Prince Charlie, and of the historical horse, Lochfergus Champion (449).

A great deal has been written of late years about the need of fresh blood among the Clydes. Some very foolish statements have been made about the Shire blood in Scotch horses, and how breeders lost much by excluding cross-bred animals from registry. Some thought that the best type was the produce of the best Shire mares, crossed by the old Prince of Wales (673). Several of these Scotch shows do not require animals shown to have any pedigree, but allow such cross-bred horses to compete. There is one of these in the above list, No. 7, Prince of Avondale, and of all the good horses bred in the way mentioned—Prince of Wales crossed on selected Shire mares—this is the only one that gets a place out of 52 stallions that take good places as sires at the Scotch shows of 1889. Enough said.

The next rank contains the following: 9, The McCamon (3818); 10, Castlereagh (Vol. IX.); 11, Springhill Darnley (2429); 12, Titward Lord Lyons (3321); 13, Good Hope (2146); 14, Sir Wyndham (4728); 15, Flashwood (3604); 16, Goldenberry (2828); 17, El Ameer (3591); 18, Belted Knight (1395); 19, Arduacraig (4812); 20, Garnet Cross (1632). Those in the rear rank are: 21, Young Lorne (997); 22, Gallant Lad (2781); 23, Lucky Getter (1483); 24, Westfield Chief (6390); 25, Lord Lyncloch (4530); 26, Macfarlane (2958); 27, Duke of Hamilton (2074); 28, Taste All (2460); 29, Baron O'Shreeve (3404); 30, Crookston (5676). This is a valuable list and is well worth keeping for easy reference. Clydesdale breeders owe thanks to the secretary for compiling such a table, though there are a few more shows that might have been included, especially some in the south-west. As to tribes from the above list, he sums them up as follows: 1, Darnley; 2, Prince of Wales; 3, Lord Erskine. We are fortunate in having in Canada a good deal of the blood of all three.

The Most Northern Pure-bred Herd in the World.

The Binscarth Shorthorn herd in Assiniboia belonging to the Manitoba and North-Western Railway, occupies the very unique position of being the most northern herd of pure-bred cattle in the world. But some three years ago, the site of the large farm of 4,000 acres was wild prairie, over which but few