

# STOCK.

## Our Scottish Letter.

THE SPRING SHOWS.

Since I last wrote, the chief business here has been shows, of which, on a large scale, we have had three, namely, at Kilmarnock, Glasgow, and Ayr, respectively. All three were held in grounds recently acquired and specially laid out for the purpose, and all three have been attended with a large measure of success. The Ayr Show is the most distinctly agricultural fixture of the kind which we have in the west country. It depends on agriculture pure and simple, and favored with fine weather this week, it drew on the two days £905 of gate money. Glasgow had a three days' event in its new showground at Scotstoun, to the west of the city, the third day being devoted to a military tournament, and its drawings



HACKNEY STALLION, SQUIRE RICKELL.  
First prize and sweepstakes at Canadian Horse Show.  
OWNED BY R. BEITH, M. P., BOWMANVILLE, ONT.

for the three were £903, nearly one-half of the total having been drawn on the third day (Saturday), which was given over to sports and the tournament, as mentioned. Kilmarnock was not so fortunate in respect of weather, the days being bitterly cold, but there was a good attendance on the Saturday afternoon, which was again given over to horse-leaping and various kinds of quasi-sports. I do not know how you run shows in Canada, but I have an idea that Ayr stands unrivalled as a purely agricultural event. One great point in its favor is that its show has been held on the same date, the Tuesday preceding the last Wednesday, and the last Wednesday of April, for something like fifty years, and there has grown up around this date a vast number of local holidays in the towns and villages of Ayrshire, while the Wednesday is also a general country holiday in the surrounding neighborhood. Canadian visitors anxious to see a genuine country gathering could not do better than visit Ayr Show. It is an enjoyable function, and this year the leading features of the event were the Ayrshire cattle, Blackface sheep, Clydesdale horses and Driving horses. Glasgow maintains its pre-eminence as the best all-round show of Clydesdales, and Kilmarnock makes a good second in that respect, while this year it had the best show of pedigree Hackneys. The driving classes at all shows have this year been unusually good.

Ayrshires still hold their place as first favorites amongst cattle in the west and south-west of Scotland. The highest honor in the breed is the leadership of the Ayr Derby for three-year-old heifers. The animals are entered for this event when calves, and it is always a sign of good judgment when those thus selected take a good place in the Derby. It is an illustration of the sound judgment prevailing amongst breeders of Ayrshires that very seldom does a three-year-old heifer appear which is able to beat the Derby winner. Similar competitions are held at Castle Douglas, Kilmarnock, and Glasgow, and also at nearly all the county and parish shows in the West. This year the winner of the Ayr Derby comes from the extreme south of Scotland, from the famous Gretna, where in other days runaway couples from England were wont to be joined in matrimony by an accommodating blacksmith, and his performance of the ceremony held good. The nominators of the Derby winner, "Senorita," were her breeders, Messrs. A. & W. Kerr, Old Graitney, Gretna. The senior member of this firm, Mr. Abram Kerr, was formerly tenant of Castlehill, Durrisdale, which he left in 1893. He had a splendid outgoing sale, the quality of his Ayrshires being first-class. His stock bull, Peter of Whitehill, was retained and hired from season to season until Mr. Kerr found another farm, which he very soon did, and assuming his son William as partner, they have been gradually building up a good herd once more. "Senorita of Old Graitney" is a capital example of an Ayrshire dairy cow. She has a good vessel and first-rate teats, is a well-bodied cow, and carries herself well. Possibly ultra-critics might like her vessel to be carried more evenly forward, but for practical purposes she is an ideal

dairy cow, and was a popular winner. She also secured the female championship of the show, carrying all before her. The second queen in the Ayr Derby was the winner of the Glasgow Derby, Mr. James Lawrie's Beauty IV., from West Newton, Strathavon. This is a cow of different caliber from Senorita. She lacks the substance of the winner, and yet she excels her in the formation of her fore-vessel, as it is called. She has a smarter head and carries her neck better, but when these things have been mentioned the points wherein she excels have been declared. She has a typical vessel of the fashionable order, and her teats are not so well planted or so long and well shaped as those of the winner. She is, however, a smart cow, and her dam, Beauty I., was the champion female at the H. & A. S. Show at Dumfries in 1895.

A very interesting department at Ayr is that for groups of Ayrshire cattle. Messrs. Kerr had no other forward but Senorita, and hence were not in these competitions. First prize for group of three, bred and owned by exhibitor, went to Mr. Alexander Cross, of Knockdon, who has a fine herd and had several in the Derby. Mr. John Drennan, Hillhouse, Galston, had second. He owns the champion cow at Kilmarnock, and she also stood reserve champion at Ayr, where she was first in the class for aged cows in milk. Mr. Drennan has well-framed cattle, with good vessels, but their teats are just to the small side, which breeders in this country are trying to get rid of. Mr. T. C. Lindsay, Aitkenbrae, Monkton, was third, and Mr. Sloan, Treesmax, Ochiltree, was fourth. A most interesting competition is that for the best five cows out of any one parish. It is called the parish competition. Mr. Drennan led in this competition, being followed by Messrs. R. & J. McAlister, Mid-Ascoig, Rothesay, who have a splendid herd of dairy cattle in Bute, and Mr. Cross was third. In the male section, the leading aged bulls (that is, 3 years old and over) this year are Mr. Robert Osborne's Gigantic Stunner, which won the male championship at Kilmarnock and Ayr, and Mr. John McKean's Douglasdale, from Dam of Aber, Kilmarnock, which won the same trophy. Unfortunately, these bulls have not met, and they will not meet now, as Mr. Hunter, from Canada, has bought Douglasdale, along with several choice cows and heifers, some of which have been winning at these shows.

Clydesdales are this year very good. Amongst the younger stock, the produce of Messrs. Montgomery's Baron's Pride 9122 are making a clean sweep at all the shows, and, so far, the best female of the season is the 3-year-old Jeanie Deans, from Mr. Thomas Smith's stud at Blaenau Point, Chester. She has taken champion honors at Castle Douglas, Kilmarnock, and Ayr, and is improving as the season advances. The brood mares at Glasgow and Kilmarnock were led by daughters of Sir Everard, the sire of Baron's Pride, Mr. Holmes' Lady Raffan, a fine type of mare, which has won first four times at Glasgow, being the former, and Mr. Guild's Lady Margaret, a right good mare, the latter. At Ayr, the first brood mare was Mr. William Park's Sunray, from Portobello, a daughter of Prince Alexander 8899. The Marquis of Londonderry is showing a fine mare by Sir Everard, named Essence 13007. She was first at Kilmarnock, and second at Glasgow and Ayr, being beaten on the former occasion by Montrave Rowena, which stood first at the Highland last year, and on the latter by Mr. Sinclair Scott's Scottish Peeress, a handsome big daughter of Baron's Pride, which stood second at Kilmarnock. Mr. Scott has a very bonnie yearling filly, named Scottish Grace, by the same sire, which stood first at Ayr and second at Castle Douglas and Kilmarnock.

Amongst horses, the leading championships have gone to Mr. John Pollock's great horse, Hiawatha, the dual winner of the Cawdor Cup in previous years, and this year champion of all male Clydesdales at Glasgow and Ayr. The best 3-year-old stallion of the spring shows is Mr. Herbert Webster's Baron Kitchener, a lovely horse, by Baron's Pride, which stood second at the Highland last year. He was reserve champion at Glasgow and Ayr, and on the latter occasion beat his successful opponent of last year, Mr. Thomas Smith's Drumflower 10537, a horse of great substance and size, got by Macgregor. The best 2-year-old colt of the season is Mr. William Dunlop's Sylvander 10633, which won first at Kilmarnock, Glasgow, and Ayr. He is a son of Montrave Mac, the son in his turn of the celebrated Macgregor and Montrave Maud, and his own dam was the champion mare, Mary Kerr, which has, unfortunately, died within the past few days. Two-year-old fillies have been the least uniform class of the season, and no one of them has been able to walk supreme. At Castle Douglas and Kilmarnock Mr. Picken's led the way; at Glasgow, Mr. Webster's Lady Florence was first, and at Ayr, Mr. Guild's Topsy Pride, the unbeaten yearling of 1899, was first. We put our money on the last as the best.

A splendid sale of Hackneys was held at Gowanbank, Darvel, Mr. Alexander Morton's stud farm, on Thursday. Trade was brisk, and the horses were a truly grand lot. Sixteen ponies made an average of £59 14s. 4d., one of them, a perfect gem, named Fiona 10018, making no less than £204, and another, Snapshot, a 5-year-old gelding, making £168. Thirty-two harness horses and mares made an average of £57 4s. 5d., the highest figure being £315 paid for the 10-year-old mare, Cicely 5133, a former champion winner at London; while other single animals made £210, £131 5s., £126, £127 1s., £110 5s., and £105. Eleven brood mares were sold at

an average of £80 5s. 6d., the highest prices being £157 10s., and £147. Altogether the 59 horses sold made an average of £78 9s. 4d. If such prices as these could always be obtained, Hackney breeding in Scotland would pay. "SCOTLAND YET."

## The Embargo on Argentine Cattle.

According to the official statement of Hon. Mr. Long, chairman of the British Board of Agriculture, 154 head of cattle were certified to be affected with foot and mouth disease, out of the 244 brought to Deptford from Buenos Ayres by the steamer Ethelinda. It was upon the foregoing that the order of the British Board of Agriculture, forbidding the landing of live cattle from the Argentine Republic after May 1st, was issued. Commenting thereon, the English *Live Stock Journal* says:

"It will be regretted by breeders that such a step is necessary in the case of the Argentine Republic, which has during the past few years proved such a good customer for our pedigree cattle and sheep. The trade in cattle and sheep from the Argentine to this country is large, and had been steadily growing until last year, when we received 85,365 oxen and 382,080 sheep, these figures showing a diminution in both classes as compared with 1898; still, even the lower figures represent about 1,700 cattle and 76,000 sheep weekly, constituting a very considerable contribution to the food supply. The value of the importations in 1899 was £1,392,599 for cattle, and £508,436 for sheep, making a total of nearly two million pounds sterling, and the loss of this will be a heavy blow to the Argentine, and for some time will appreciably affect the supplies in our markets. It will not, however, be lost, because there will, no doubt, be a rapid development of the dead-meat trade. Last year the Argentine sent 1,141,208 cwt. of fresh mutton of the value of £1,490,106, and, under the new regulations, this trade is likely to be largely increased, for even while the animals could be landed for slaughter, it has doubled in extent in about four years. Similar arrangements will be, no doubt, made for the shipment of beef. Nor should the temporary prohibition affect the demand for pedigree stock, as the quality must be maintained; and the Argentine will have everything to gain in steadily improving her flocks and herds, so as to compete, as has been done in the past, with the imports from North America."

The *Review* of the River Platte, Buenos Ayres, concedes the existence of the disease in the following editorial paragraph: "It is to be hoped that the energetic measures which have been taken by the authorities of the nation and the Province of Buenos Ayres will lead to the early extirpation of foot and mouth disease. Fortunately there is not the same reason to fear it as if our animals were stall-fed; but none the less is the outbreak a serious thing for our trade. The disease must have been imported from some other country; but this will not prevent that country from declining to receive animals from here, until such time as the disease is thoroughly stamped out."

## Good Grooming Pays.

Though many horse owners do not seem to appreciate it, the grooming which an animal receives when properly kept plays almost as important a



THOROUGHBRED STALLION, VERSATILE.  
First prize and sweepstakes at Canadian Horse Show.  
OWNED BY WM. HENDRIE, HAMILTON, ONT.

part in the maintenance of the health of an animal as the food which it gets. There is nothing more conducive to the maintenance of the good health of an animal than a vigorous application of the curry-comb and brush from day to day. Such treatment helps to open the pores of the skin, and thus facilitates the getting rid-through perspiration—of certain waste matters, which, if allowed to remain in the system, would prove distinctly injurious. Just as in certain human ailments, much benefit is derived from the production of a vigorous perspiration, which enables certain materials to be removed from the tissues of the body, so, also, in the case of horses, the maintenance of the healthy condition of the skin facilitates the removal of certain substances which are known to be conducive to various diseases.

| PURPOSES. | 1899      | 1900      |
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| ...       | 1,800     | 1,800     |
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| ...       | 1,650     | 1,650     |
| ...       | 1,100     | 1,100     |
| ...       | 9,900     | 9,900     |
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| ...       | 51,367    | 53,275    |
| ...       | \$214,617 | \$212,025 |

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