

Barbed-wire Fences.

The Farmer's Advocate, of Winnipeg, contains a timely discussion of the folly of barbed wire fences. None but the impetuous beginner would build such a fence, and it is questionable if he is justified in doing so. It will not turn sheep, hogs, chickens, nor even cattle well, who to horses it is ruinous. It is a safe estimate to say that enough horses are ruined every few years in barbed wire to properly fence most farms where this evil exists, with some satisfactory fencing material. Wherever new fences are being built at the season, let it be done properly, and for the purpose.

At this season of the year much is demanded of the teams. Cultivating, team work, cutting meadows, hauling hay, harvesting, form a succession of duties that keep the teams busy during all the hot weather and some of the cool. Knowing that these things have to be done the horses should be kept in prime working condition. For this they should be fed on well-cured hay, and have plenty of grain. It is a common practice to turn work horses to pasture at night and on Sundays. An occasional moderate amount of grass is a beneficial regulator for the animal, but they should not be expected to work all day, and then forage for themselves at night. As a general practice they will do better work kept in the stables at night. If they be turned out at night it should be after they have had both their hay and grain, and then into a lot where they cannot obtain a great deal of grass. Similarly, on Sunday, they should be fed regularly, and then turned in a lot for the sun, air, and rolling privileges, but not for the food available.

LIVE STOCK.

Honor Roll of Shorthorns. II.

By J. C. Snell

In the year 1858, the Provincial Fair being held in Toronto, a prominent feature in the Short horn class was the first prize cow, Jenny Lind, 215, a beautiful roan, bred in Yorkshire, and imported in that year by John Gill, of Grahamsville, in Peel County. She was lengthy and level, had a sweet feminine head and neck, carried a large and shapely udder, and was a model of the dual purpose Shorthorn. The calf she carried when imported was contracted for at \$100, by John Snell, of Edmonton, now Smelgrove, at a bull, which it proved to be, and was named Cobden, record number 52, and was a very useful sire, though not a strong show bull.

In 1859, Geo. Miller, of Markham, imported from the Scotch herd of Robert Syme, the lengthy, level, light roan yearling bull, Prince of Wales, 294, which made a fine record in prizewinning at Provincial and State fairs for several years. It was at Syracuse, N. Y., where he had won first honors, that, on being asked what price he put on the bull, Mr. Miller, in his characteristic bluntness, replied, "Six hundred dollars, not an inch less." It was at the same show, when a "clade" pulled a lock of wool out of one of his legs, that Uncle George grabbed the culprit's lowering whiskers, and punished him summarily.

It can not be out of place just here to call attention to the question of color in Shorthorns, a feature which at various periods in the time of these records has caused considerable discussion, and at times degenerated into a baneful red-while, from the date of origin of the breed, the colors prevailing have been either red, red and white, or roan (a mixture of red and white), there have been periods in the evolution of the breed when attempts have been made to introduce patterns to the red and the popular color, claiming that

deferring in that regard would be an improvement. That cattle in stables or in transit would look better and sell better, etc. The folly of this conception and practice has been repeatedly demonstrated in the history of herds in which red-while have been conscientiously used, simply because they were led to the neglect of the more important qualities of constitutional vigor and the desirable class of flesh, hide and hair, which indicates a "good doer." It will be of interest to the reader to notice, in these chronicles, the striking preponderance of reans in the breed of the early prominent windings, or whites. There should be no objection to or prejudice against red color, provided the animal carries quality of hair and flesh with it. And many of the grandest representatives of the breed have been red or red and white.

It can be well here, also, to state that the pictures of the early prizewinning animals reproduced in connection with these chronicles, were not from photographs, but from drawings, and are somewhat overdrawn, though they give in a general way a fairly correct idea of the type of the originals. Animal photography has greatly improved since those days, but as it should yet in its infancy.

In 1869, Simon Beattie imported for John Snell from the Syme herd, the roan bull, Baron Solway, 23, then a yearling, which won first prize in his class that year at the Provincial Fair, London, and at following Provincial Fairs for several years. He was built on a large scale, and at maturity weighed over 2,600 pounds. He was taller than most present day Shorthorns, but had with it great depth of body and fine handling bone and hide, and proved a valuable sire of thriving stock. One of his horns was accidentally broken on shipboard, and lay down beside his place, somewhat hurting his appearance while he lived, but he made a fine reputation in his day.

It was in this year (1869) that His Royal Highness, Albert Edward, then Prince of Wales, visited Canada, and it was at the Provincial Fair at Hamilton, in the show ring, where the prize animals were being paraded for his inspection, the writer, with others having charge of herds, had the high honor of being introduced by the President of the Fair to the Prince, then a strapping of nineteen years. The next time I had the pleasure of seeing him, he was again in the cattle ring, at the Royal Show, at Windsor, in 1889, a broad-shouldered, middle-aged man, still the Prince of Wales, and accompanied by his charming wife and three beautiful, grown-up daughters. On the occasion of his visit to Canada, the Prince donated to the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario two hundred pounds, the interest of which, sixty dollars, was to be given alternately to the winner of what was known as the Prince of Wales' prize, for the best animal, herd, stud or flock of such breeds as the directors decided to offer it for. And my father and his sons were three times the proud winners of this important prize.

Baron Solway met his Waterloo in the show ring in 1864, at Hamilton, when Hon. David Christie of Paris, Brant County, brought out Oxford Lad, 207, a Bates-bred, red and white bull, bred by J. O. Sheldon, of Geneva, N. Y., a bull that made no great record afterwards, either in the show ring or in a sire.

In 1864 Mr. Christie also made his famous importation from the herd of James Douglas, of Athelstanford, Scotland, including the sensational red cow, Queen of Athelstan, 439, her charming yearling daughter, Princess of Athelstan, and her beautiful bull calf, Crown Prince of Athelstan. These made a spectacular show herd, and being red and brought out in splendid contrast by the Scotch herdsmen, who came across the ice with them. Queen of Athelstan was a model of symmetry and substance, rounded up, round on her short legs, with a great range of body and depth of body. Her back was round, her tail and well covered with good hair, coming to a magnificent tip, her head so well rounded with splendid prospects, made little better at present after the first two or three years of her life, and even the first calf at

noticeable in the headbrows of late years. The dark roan bull calf, Crown Prince of Athelstan, 2nd, bought by James L. Davidson and John Miller, in partnership, made a good reputation as a sire in their herds, but beyond this there has been little in the family calling for special notice in history.

(To be continued.)

Our Scottish Letter.

EARLY POTATOES IN AYRSHIRE.

It is now the tenth of June, and we are having summer weather. Heavy rains have fallen all around, and generally the crops are looking better than they did for some weeks. Pastures have made little progress, on account of persistent east winds, and less than a fortnight ago we had a frost which did incalculable damage to the young blair. Happily, it did not strike the early potato district on the Ayrshire coast, and to-day the lifting of the potato crop of 1910 was begun in that favored region. Early potatoes are a costly crop to raise, and few crops are so speculative. The early growers have, however, had the best of it in recent years. This arises from the fact that they generally sell at so much per acre to the merchants, who take the risks. In the case of the later potato growers, that is, those in the Dunbar, Lothian, Fife, Perth and Forfar districts, the trade is conducted on another principle. The farmer does the digging, and sells during the season at so much per ton to the merchants. The crop of 1909 has been a most unprofitable one for all but the first growers. The demand was never buoyant, and the crop was lifted, and "pit-ted" in a very unsatisfactory state, on account of the early November, or, rather, October, frosts. Digging will be general in the Ayrshire district next week, about a week or ten days ahead of the date in 1909.

THE MEAT MAKER'S OPPORTUNITY.

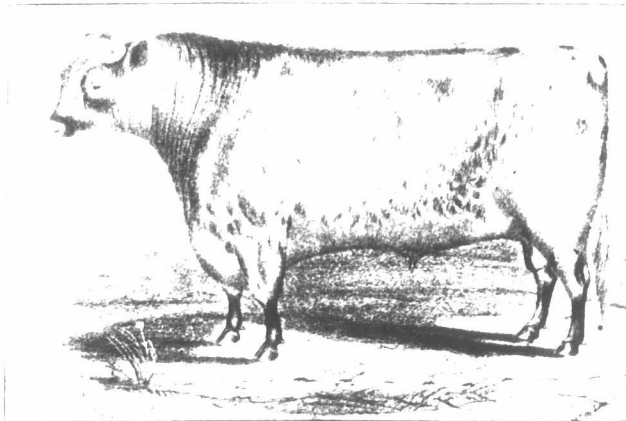
The great topic of conversation wherever farmers congregate is the high price of meat. Not for a quarter of a century have prices reached so high a level. The butchers have raised the price to the consumer, and there is every likelihood that the high level will be maintained for a lengthened spell. Supplies from the United States and Canada have reached a low figure, and the splendid larders and abattoirs erected by the Clyde Trustees at Merikland are going a begging. It is proposed to utilize them for something else, and so secure some return for capital expended. Now has come the opportunity of the home producer and feeder. He has waited patiently for the turn of the tide, and now it has come. He is not prepared, and few can blame him. The collapse of the overseas trade has been unexpected. The volume to which it had attained caused men to regard it as a permanency. That both the North American nations should so rapidly have become equal to the consumption of their own meat, was scarcely contemplated by anyone. In Edinburgh market, on Tuesday, a bullock was sold at 50s. 9d. per live cwt. of 112 pounds. This works out at 5½d. per pound, or, as you would express it, at 10 cents per pound. Of course, all this is good news to the farmer, but the scarcity of stores, or, as you call them, "stockers," means that he has to pay pretty high for his raw material. This cannot be remedied in a day. The growth of the overseas trade was not the work of a day. The whole system of farming was in some localities revolutionized to meet the altered condition, and dairying took the place of rearing and feeding for beef. No one did this willingly, as feeding is an easy kind of agriculture, compared with dairying. Many will be glad to revert to their first method and abandon dairying, but such a change cannot be effected in a day.

NEW STOCK MARKET IN EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh, the ancient capital of Scotland,



J. W. Stone



Baron Solway



Simon Beattie.