

Feeding Export Cattle at the Mount Elgin (Ont.) Industrial Institution.

(BY W. W. SHEPHERD, PRINCIPAL.)

During the past winter we fed 60 head of cattle, as follows: Commencing early in September with 20, we fed them 5 quarts chop on the grass for two months and finished them in the stables, and shipped the week before Christmas. The second load was fed one month on the grass, the same quantity as above. They were shipped about the middle of February. The third load went into the stables about the middle of November, had only been fed on the grass about two weeks, and were shipped March 26th. All these cattle were driven an average of one quarter mile each way to take their chop in stables, but got very little but the chop till they were taken in permanently. After the cattle were permanently stabled, they were fed 8 quarts of chop per head per day. The chop was a mixture as follows: Before grinding, 8 bushels of oats, 5 of western corn, and 3 of the best wheat. The results satisfied us that the wheat, although the most expensive, accomplished the most for the dollar. The chop was ground nearly as fine as flour. We found great advantage in feeding a mixture in preference to one sort of grain.

We cut hay, oat sheaves and cornstalks in equal quantities, adding one fourth of wheat chaff to the mixture. Next, we put two baskets of this mixture to one of ensilage, and mix well 24 hours in advance of feeding, and give the cattle all they would clean up by 9 a. m., with half the chop for the day. The second feed we gave after 5 p. m., the same amount of chop with half the quantity of the other mixture, which soon disappeared, followed by all the hay they could clean up by 8 o'clock. One peck of roots, turnips or mangels, just before each feed. The average age of the cattle when shipped was two years and ten months; average weight, 1,350 lbs., at the stables. The feeding was in box stalls, from 8 to 10 in a stall, with access to water and a small outside yard. The box stalls are just the thing if you have plenty of straw and ample space, but not otherwise.

Shearing and Washing Sheep.

After a careful investigation of the subject, we are convinced that, in the long run, it is more profitable to dispense with washing altogether.

We have secured better results by shearing our sheep during the first half of April than later in the season. This, of course, makes it impossible to wash sheep before shearing. We are satisfied that we can get not only a heavier average fleece, but also a wool of better strength from the same flock by shearing during the first half of April than by shearing in May or June.

If reasonable care is taken to keep the wool free from dirt and litter while on the sheep's back, then there is little to be gained by washing. By an examination of the wool-market quotations we note a class of unmerchantable wools. This class includes wools poorly washed. A large per cent. of our washed wools are sold as unmerchantable, at a price about equal to that of unwashed wools.

We should not leave this subject of washing without saying that if we could think the washing process an advantage to grower and consumer alike we would still think the custom of doubtful utility on account of injury to the sheep. Sheep are often roughly handled and not infrequently we believe more injury is done to the sheep than good to the fleece. The sheep will suffer no inconvenience from early shearing except for the first few days, if they are properly sheltered and protected from the cold, and more especially storms. The wool makes a rapid growth during the cool months of spring, and the sheep is not sweltering under a thick blanket of wool. In the latter case the sheep is not only uncomfortable, but the wool makes but little, if any, growth.

For several years, in a majority of instances, the eastern wool markets have been better in April than in June. This would give the grower who makes a practice of early spring shearing a slight advantage as to markets. HERBERT W. MUMFORD.
Michigan Agri. College.

Functions of the Horse Show.

It is needless to say that the rankest scuffer has never withheld the fact that the Horse Show has been a boon to the dealer of fine horses, and encouraged breeders as no other factor in late years has done. As the Horse Show increases in scope, the demand for horses eligible in classes at these events increases in a like ratio, until now it is not the question of selling a good horse, but one of procuring him to sell. This constant demand, and efforts to supply this want in the public, has done more than any one thing to strengthen and uphold the industry which for a time felt the decline attendant upon the short-lived interest in the bicycle. The newer fad of the automobile, being more expensive and not yet proven practical, has not reached that widespread popularity where it need be considered at all seriously as jeopardizing the scope of the high-class horse. Certainly it will be a very long time before the inanimate motor vehicles will supplant (either on the boulevards or in the showing) the pleasurable and everlasting exhilaration of dominating a highly-educated and intelligent animal. The Horse Show is in the height of its popularity and the height of its

glory as a training-school of beauty and finish, and as the horse furnishes the *raison d'être* for it all, the horse is a pre-eminent figure for many years to come in his field.—*Horse Show Monthly*.

Our Scottish Letter.

BIRMINGHAM BULL SALE AND LONDON HORSE SHOWS

Bull sales were tapering off when I last wrote, and the concluding event at Birmingham was quite as big a tribute to the Beaufort herd of Lord Lovat as those that went before it. The highest average priced bulls again came from this famous herd in Inverness-shire, and its record at the spring sales has been something to boast about. Three bulls from it at Inverness sale made an average of £126, three at Perth made £139 5s., and four at Birmingham made £257 5s. The average price of these ten young bulls was £108 9s. 6d. Six of them are descended on the female side from the Sittyton Broadhocks family, and all of them were got by Royal Star, a bull bred at Cromleybank, Ellon, by Mr. Reid. His sire was a Collynie bull, and his dam an Uppermill cow. It is thus Cruickshank everywhere in the ascendant, and 1900 will rank as one of the best spring sales for Shorthorn bulls ever held. The Galloway bull sale at Castle-Douglas was spoiled through an excess of moderate animals being presented, but the tops were first-class and made good prices.

The month of March is closing, and on the whole, March dust has been conspicuous by its absence. There has been an abundance of snow, sleet and bitter cold winds, but the dust which is supposed to be invaluable to the farmer was not much in evidence. As a result, farm labor is now behind, and all classes of farmers are anxiously looking for an alteration in climatic conditions. Let us hope the desire to see this may be gratified, and that ere this appears in print leeway will have been made up. The leading feature of the month was the London Horse Shows, three of which were held during the opening weeks of the month. The Shire horsemen had the first innings, and a good show was the result, while the spring sales have again shown high averages for high-class horses. In spite of the great boom in Shires amongst the wealthy nobility, it is a curious thing that most of the rank and file of breeders have got comparatively little good out of the boom. The Clydesdale trade, although less buoyant, is much more steady, and while we have no record of colts being sold at 1,500 guineas, as was the case with the junior champion Shire, there is a fine, healthy trade for Clydesdales, and at the Kippendavie sale, rendered necessary through the death of Colonel Stirling, an average of £83 2s. 10d. was obtained for eleven animals. One mare, "Brenda," made £152 5s., and a three-year-old filly named "Selina" made £162 15s. Canadian buyers have been in evidence during the past few days, and a shipment of half a dozen good Clydesdale stallions has left by the Amarnythia this week. They have been purchased by Messrs. McLachlan Bros., Guelph, Ont., and were selected by Mr. John Duff, Guelph, who accompanied Mr. McLachlan. A very good horse amongst them named King's Own was purchased from Mr. Riddell. He is a capital Canadian horse with plenty of bone and substance, and was got by the Cawdor Cup champion horse, "Royal Garter" 9844, out of a specially well-bred mare. Three horses have been purchased from Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, namely, Scottish Celt 10007, Montrave Florist 10240, and Reckoner 10864. These horses are bred for size and weight of bone, and their breeding is high-class. The first is a son of Macgregor, which sold by public auction for 400 gs., and has won many prizes. The sire of this Montrave horse is the £3,000 champion horse, Prince of Albion, and the sire of Reckoner is the big, powerful stallion, Mains of Airies 10379. Another well-bred horse, named Alfred the Great, has gone to Mr. James Moffatt, Teeswater, Ont. He was got by the celebrated Prince Alexander 8890, which sold when a yearling for £1,200, and was champion at the H. & A. S. Show when a yearling, and also winner of the Cawdor Cup when a three-year-old. After a somewhat weary period of comparatively poor trade there is a good prospect for Clydesdale breeders, and the recently-issued twenty-second volume of the Clydesdale Stud Book shows that renewed activity has been manifested in the entering of stock in the stud book.

Hackney breeding always excites lively interest in the London Agricultural Hall, and the show of this year was a great success. All the same, the opinion was general that the young horses were not equal to what they had been in some former years. The championship went to a fine animal named McKinley, owned by Mr. Harry Livesey, sired by Garton Duke of Connaught, and first last year at the H. & A. S. Show at Edinburgh. He is a tremendous mover, going with great force, and it was generally expected that he would win. The female championship and also the reserve championship came to Scotland to Mr. C. E. Galbraith, Terregles House, Dumfries, who has one of the best studs in Great Britain. He was President of the Hackney Horse Society last year. Mr. Galbraith's horses were splendidly brought out, and the champion Rosadora is a great mare—a daughter of the dual London champion, Rosador. The reserve champion was Queen of the West, a mare of superb quality, with great action, got by Garton Duke of Connaught. The most successful Scottish exhibitor after Mr. Galbraith, and in some respects even more successful than he, was Mr. Henry Liddell-Grainger,

Ayton Castle, Berwickshire. Mr. Liddell-Grainger shows fine stock, and never shows anything but what is bred by himself. He has made quite a reputation for himself in this way, and there are few breeders of Hackneys anywhere who have had anything like equal success with animals bred at home. The other Scottish breeders of Hackneys did not get so far forward, but the north was quite worthily represented. The Hunter Improvement Show, which is the last of the London spring events, does not bulk so largely in public estimation as the Shire and the Hackney shows, but it is growing, and by combining with the Royal Commission on horse-breeding and the Polo Pony Society, a very good week's programme is made up.

Dairy farmers are greatly interested at present in the inquiry being held in London into the question of a standard for milk. At present there is no official standard, but the Somerset House standard of 2.75 per cent. butter-fat is accepted as the final court of appeal. Many farmers, although not all, are of opinion that their interests would not suffer were the standard made 3 per cent. butter-fat and 8.50 per cent. solids other than fat, and a great amount of evidence on the subject is being heard. The agricultural feeling, generally, is that the low standard of 2.75 leaves a considerable margin for the reduction of the quality of average farmers' milk, and it is clear that in a great many cases a much higher percentage of butter-fat than 2.75 is obtained from an average herd of dairy cows. Most milk from well-kept dairies of Ayrshire or grade Shorthorn cows will give 3.5 per cent. butter-fat, or even more, but there are cases in which at certain seasons of the year even 2.75 is not reached. It would be hard to penalize a farmer who was doing his best, and I fear the standard may be settled on a lower basis than some expect, just because those below the average must be considered as well as those above. A movement is on foot amongst dairy farmers in North Ayrshire to force up the price of milk. They are certainly not being paid a fair price, when the general figure is 6d. per gallon in summer and 8d. per gallon in winter, and Essex farmers have shown what can be done towards raising prices by forming a dairy association wrought on sound principles. Whether Scotchmen will be equally successful remains to be seen. "SCOTLAND YET."

FARM.

Uncut Corn in a Stave Silo.

During the month of August, in 1897, I built a stave silo sixteen feet high and fifteen feet in diameter, large enough to contain the corn from a six-acre field. When the time arrived for filling the silo I secured the services of a two-horse power and cutter, hired two or three extra teams and a large gang of men, and started to work. We filled it all right, but I was out of pocket about \$16 for extra help at the end of the job. Most of the ensilage came out in good shape, although there was some waste near the top, around the edges.

In the fall of 1898 I was unable to obtain the same cutter which I used the year before, so I scoured the country far and near in a vain endeavor to find another, for I did not care to invest money in a power and cutter for so small an amount of corn. At last I gave up the search in disgust and decided (knowing that others had preceded me) to put the corn in whole. One team, two wagons and four men, all told, filled the silo in less than two days, but there were yet two acres of corn standing. As it settled in the silo, my man and I added more corn, until we had nearly the whole six acres in the small compass of our big tub. I placed it all myself, laying each layer at right angles to the previous one. On opening in November we found the center all right, but around the edges considerable corn was spoiled. That taught me a lesson; I had not kept the edges high enough, and had been too lax in the treading process. As near as I could calculate, my loss of ensilage was not equal to the extra cost of hiring a cutter, so I decided to try again with whole corn. This year we have made a complete success of it. It was put in in layers as before, but great care was taken to keep the sides high and well trodden down. As long as any perceptible settling took place, this tramping process was continued every morning; then it was covered with wet straw and tread every morning for several days more.

We are now feeding this ensilage, and it is the best we have ever had, in spite of the fact that it was frosted severely before cut. The stalks are all eaten by the cattle, and ears as large as your arm go down, husks, cob and all. It is more quickly handled than cut corn, although some men might object to soiling their fingers, for it is not easily handled with a fork. No cutting is required to get it up if the layers are taken as they were put down. Missisquoi Co., Quebec. CHAS. S. MOORE.

Manager Hill Goes to Europe.

Manager Hill, of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition, leaves for Europe the end of this month, on a two months leave to visit the Royal Agricultural Show and others, and the Paris Exposition. He will visit all points of interest in Europe, where any practical knowledge can be gained that will enable him to add new features to and otherwise add to the importance of the Toronto Fair. We wish him a successful and pleasant and profitable trip.