

accumulated and accumulating upon the estancias of South America from the introduction of pedigree stock from these Islands?

The owners of the estancias realize it, hence the high prices they are paying for the best bulls, and, as a further example, their insistence that no Shorthorn shall be eligible for the Argentine herd book unless the pedigree of the sire and the dam goes back in unbroken sequence to 1850. Happily South Africa has begun to taste the fruits arising from the use of British pedigree sires as opposed to mongrels, and friendships and pleasant business relations are springing up which otherwise must have remained dormant. Dealing with our position at home, I question if there was ever a more opportune moment to "take stock." We are now relying mainly upon the importation of beef from one country, and a matter of national urgency is, how far we can improve and increase our home supplies?

Althought Great Britain can justly claim to be the pioneer of pure-bred stock among the nations, yet, if a cattle census were taken, the first and second grade cattle would be found in relatively small numbers, compared with the third and fourth grade cattle. If a national live-stock balance-sheet could be prepared, showing clearly the difference in value to the State between first and second grade, as opposed to third and fourth grade cattle, the day of the mongrel sire would be doomed. Why is it that Scotch beef has gained its present reputation on the London market? Because of pedigree sires.

Why is it that non-pedigree cows have made nearly £100 each in Penrith market? Because pedigree sires have been used in this zone for over a century. Why is it that the cows of Cheshire are famous for big frames and milking capacity, and their bull calves in such demand? Because Cheshire farmers have attended and made purchases at the Birmingham Pedigree Bull sales ever since their inauguration.

It applies also to the grand type of cow to be found in the Vale of Aylesbury, and wherever pedigree sires have been used consistently over a series of years. The live-stock officers have a great work before them. The hosts of slow-growing, unthrifty, slack-backed, wedge-shaped, wire-haired, narrow-ribbed cattle, which cannot pay for keep and attendance, must disappear in the best interests of British agriculture.

How often have I heard the late Mr. John Thornton implore the young farmers, at a sale of pedigree cattle, to open their hearts and buy a pedigree sire, and how often was his eloquent appeal in vain! He had his revenge one day. A yearling bull came into the ring, whereupon a young man of very limited education began to handle the animal roughly, and with no idea of purchase. Down went John Thornton's sand-glass, and those who were present will never forget the withering shot of the greatest of salesmen, "Eh, man, one beast in the ring at a time, please."

The Value of British pedigree stock is gaugeless. It is a gold mine without any alloy.—R. H. Green, in the Live Stock Journal Almanac.

The Live-stock Situation in England.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The Aberdeen-Angus breed of cattle has enjoyed a remarkable run of victories at the late round of live-stock shows held in Britain. Equally striking, also, has been the number of class victories gained by first crosses of the Angus. At the London Smithfield Show, there were eight different classes for cross-bred cattle, and in these twenty out of a possible twenty-three money prizes were taken by animals in which Aberdeen-Angus blood appeared, leaving only three of the prize-winners in the breeding of which that blood did not figure. Not only was this the case, but both the best animals in those eight classes of cross-breds, and the second best, were got by Aberdeen-Angus sires.

Even more notable were the wins achieved by pure-bred Angus cattle. It provided the supreme champion, the female champion, the best heifer, the best animal bred by the exhibitor, the best yearling and so on, while in the carcass competitions the champion carcass was that of a two-year-old cross-bred Aberdeen-Angus steer, while reserve was a pure-bred Aberdeen-Angus heifer.

At the Edinburgh Fat Stock Show Colonel McInroy, of The Burn, won champion honors for the second time, and here during the past 18 years the championship has been won eight times by pure-bred Aberdeen-Angus cattle, and nine times by crosses representing the Aberdeen-Angus and Shorthorn lines of crossing, and but once by a pure-bred Shorthorn. It is to be noted that

the championship here has gone four times to animals under two years of age.

At Ipswich Fat Stock Show J. J. Cridlan wound up a big round of successes with his Aberdeen-Angus heifer Estelle of Maisemore which scaled 14 cwt. 3 qrs., 8 lbs., being only 10 lbs. less than at Smithfield Show, where she was supreme champion. All told Estelle has won for Cridlan £505 worth of prizes at summer and fat-stock shows in the 1913-1914 seasons. Cridlan now lifts the Ipswich championship cup for ever, as he did the King's Cup at London's Smithfield Show. It is worth noting that Mr. Cridlan was the first winner of the champion prize at the Suffolk Fat Cattle Show, and that was in 1890; but it was not till 1911 that he again repeated his success. Then he favored Shorthorns, and it was with an animal of that breed, scaling 18½ cwt., that he won chief honors of the day. Since then only three times has the champion beast reached 18 cwt. or over, but none have quite scaled as much as Mr. Cridlan's champion of the year under notice. His champion of 1914 was nearly 4 cwt. less.

Despite the war it has been a wonderful year for stock prices in the Old Country. Berkshire boars have sold under the hammer at prices up to 70 guineas; large white sows up to 45 guineas; large black sows up to 46 guineas; Kent rams up to 150 guineas; Shropshires at 40 guineas; Suffolks at 43 guineas; Cheviots at 100 guineas; Lincolns at 60 guineas; Southdowns at 56 guineas; and Hampshires at 45 guineas. One Hampshire Down ram was let for the season at 220 guineas.

In Britain in 1914 71 auction sales of Shorthorns were held, and 5,272 animals were disposed of at an average of £38 9s. 7d., realizing a total of £202,857 18s. Last year the average was £40 15s. 6d. for 6,031, but the record of



A Great Steer.

Winner at Birmingham and Smithfield.

1914 is better than that of any of the four years previous to 1913. The highest average was £131 3s. for fifty-three animals belonging to W. Duthie and J. W. Webster, the second place being taken by J. Ellis Potters dairy Shorthorns, forty-seven of which averaged £88 10s. 2d. in July.

Shires have made up to 850 guineas for stallions, and 340 guineas for two-year-old fillies. Suffolks have reached 145 guineas for three-year-old fillies. Hackneys have been in quiet demand with stallions at 330 guineas and 310 guineas, and brood mares at 200 guineas. Harn-ss horses have gone at 220 guineas for geldings. Polo ponies have fetched 400 guineas, and show Hackney ponies even up to 1,150 guineas. Hunters have sold up to 660 guineas, and over 200, ere the war broke out, realized above 220 guineas apiece. They went into the melting pot on mobilization at £40 apiece—perhaps £60 or £70 for some lucky sellers—but no more.

Apropos my "Horse in War" article in your remarkably good Christmas Number, the war has reached that stage where the horse, for the moment, cannot be used; not because he is not valuable, but because circumstances do not permit of his use. The fighting going on just at the moment is trench against trench. The horse will have his opportunity again in spring-time. If I could, I would tell you more, but the Censor is looking! The Canadian horses now kicking their heels about in Essex and in Cheshire, where I have seen mobs of them, will then smell powder for the first time and secure a nodding acquaintance with the "Jack Johnston's" that come along.

There will be horses of all nations munching their rations at Berlin on the Spree—Some day! London, Eng. G. T. BURROWS.

THE FARM.

The Red Clover Seed Situation.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

A provision for the future, entirely outside of any war demands, has to be made by Canada before next spring. The majority of seed producing districts in the Dominion are left without any supply of red clover seed for the necessary sowing, not so very far distant now, with the New Year here.

Where is this seed to be obtained? Hamburg, one of the leading seed markets of the world, is closed, and it does not seem possible for any German red clover to be available, or any of the supplies of left-over seed moved from that seed centre. Does it not look probable that the supply of Russian red clover may be prevented from drifting into any of the usual channels of commerce this coming season? France offers some new seed. Here again one cannot overlook that in the bulk of the north of France seed has been lost through the operations of the armies operating through that district. South of France seed is quite unadapted to conditions in Canada. England is said to have a useful crop of fine seed, but although the sea is open to that country, the usual distributing centres for German and Russian seed are closed. Chili may have seed to export, the bulk of which will have to go to Liverpool, with the other places closed, a source of supply for Canada exists here. Chilean seed, although as a rule very fine, is always more or less contaminated with "dodder," this weed sooner or later will get a foothold in the North American Continent.

A careful analysis of the present situation leaves the strong impression that Canada will have to rely more or less upon American red clover. Has the U. S. any quantity to spare? The course of Toledo markets during the past four or five months has indicated a divided feeling as to the United States crop this season, as a considerable range in values has occurred from time to time. Before war was declared Chicago quoted top values for red clover at 18 cents; Toledo has been over 19 cents, compared with about 15 cents and 16 cents respectively at the present time. It is difficult to recognize such a decrease in values as caused by war disturbances, otherwise than by being adversely affected by financial matters, in relation to the seed trade. The most optimistic trader could hardly have looked for any considerable export movement of red clover from United States to Europe this season. The decline in values seemingly can be determined, as only from want of backbone in the seed trade at the present time. Canadian reports and statistics, not that same are partly reliable or worth very little to guide dealer's forecasts of trade, report and point to an increase in the acreage devoted to the production of fall wheat for 1915, ranging from 17 per cent. to 25 per cent. Taking the increase at about 20 per cent. may cover the situation. As it cannot be overlooked that war was not declared until after Canadian farmers had completed arrangements for the acreage of fall wheat they intended to sow. Although some considerable increase in acreage has occurred, farmers were not in a position to add largely to such increased acreage.

With this increase, whatever it may be, will come an increased demand for red clover to sow on the wheat fields, not only by farmers, following their usual course of seeding operations, but such increase in demand will be largely augmented by the facts that a considerable proportion of the seeds sown in Ontario last spring are entirely lost, many districts reporting that the catch of young seeds amounts virtually to nothing. Some attempt has been made to overcome this loss.

Is it not reasonable to look for a strong advance in values for red clover seed taking place even if we have to deal from Canada's point alone? Finances in Canada, especially in the seed trade will hardly admit of purchases long in advance of requirements, unless farmers make purchases now. Enquiries are becoming rather numerous from Canadian country retailers, which undoubtedly point to inquiries from farmers. It is true such inquiries at present are directed mostly to endeavor to locate sources of supply.