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## The Rural Canadian.

EDITED BY W. F. CLARKE.

TORONTO, MAY 15TH, 1882.

### DECLINE OF THE WHEAT CROP.

Even in so young a State as that of Minnesota, the lessened yield of wheat excites concern, as well it may. Hon. O. H. Andrews, of St. Paul, has recently written for the Department of Agriculture a special report on the condition and needs of wheat-culture in the north-west. It is "the old story" of soil-exhaustion by too exclusive grain cropping without manure. Deterioration of seed is also considered, and no doubt correctly, to have something to do with the undesirable result. The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* gives the pith of Mr. Andrews' report in the following brief statement, which contains important lessons for wheat growers everywhere:—

"First, the exhaustion of the alkali in the soil, either by cultivation or otherwise. Up to the time when the country began to be settled, annual prairie fires spread over it, depositing each year a layer of ashes on the surface. The result was that a large amount of alkali was at length left upon the soil, which, as we all know, is an important factor in wheat growing. In cultivated fields this alkali has been exhausted, while in the uncultivated section the prevention of fires has stopped the deposit, and that which was in the soil, either by evaporation or washing, has largely been eliminated from it. Hence, even in old sections of the State, where there are prairies which have never been broken up, the virgin soil if put to wheat fails to show the returns in yield of other years.

Another cause is the deterioration of seed. The reports of the different ones as published in the work before us indicates that Lost Nation and other varieties seem to do better at first than the old Scotch Fife; but in a few years the yield is not as large even as the latter. This plainly shows a loss of vitality and calls for a change of seed. With our Scotch Fife, after twenty-five years of constant sowing without any renewal, could it be expected that it would have all the strength and vigour it once had? Supposing, then, we practise a rotation of crops; supposing we try to restore the alkali to the soil by the liberal use of manures, and where practicable by spreading the straw over the surface and burning it; supposing, also, we renew our seed by sending to the north or some outside section for it. By these means we certainly would take a long step in the direction of right farming, and settle the status of wheat growing in the North-west forever."

### IMPORTANT SHORTHORN SALES.

Three great sales of Canadian Shorthorns were held last month at Dexter Park, Chicago, and Waukegan, Ill. Two of them were briefly chronicled in our last issue, but they are sufficiently historical to be worthy of a more full and detailed report. The results prove that the Shorthorn is holding its own, in spite of the competition of other breeds; and while some of the prices are of the fancy order, it is manifest that good, substan-

tial, average blood is not at a discount in the market.

HON. M. H. COCHRANE'S HERD.

The *Country Gentleman* says:—"The sale at Dexter Park, Chicago, April 18th, of twenty-four head of Shorthorns from the celebrated herd of Hon. M. H. Cochrane, Compton, Can., as might have been expected, was a great success, attracting a large attendance, including leading breeders from many different States. Previous to the auction, Mr. Cochrane briefly addressed the company, correcting the statement which has been made in certain publications that he proposed to withdraw from the business of breeding Shorthorns. He desired to say publicly that such had never been his intention. He was not present with the idea of unloading his Shorthorn stock. He believed there was plenty of room and opportunity for the breeders of the various families of beef cattle. He bred not only the Durham, but also the long-horned Herefords and the hornless Angus, but as long as he owned a hoof he would be the proprietor of a Shorthorn herd. The sale then proceeded under the charge of Col. Judy, with the following result:

|                                                                                                        |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 10th Duchess of Airdrie, 13 years, O. M. Branson, Astoria, .....                                       | \$1300 |
| Airdrie Duchess 4th, 9 yrs., Robert Ogilvie, Madison, Wis. ....                                        | 7100   |
| Kirklevington 26th, 7 years, T. Corwin Anderson, Side View, Ky. ....                                   | 500    |
| Princess, 8 years, H. E. Roberts, Georgetown, Ky. ..                                                   | 270    |
| Kirklevington Marchioness 2nd, 6 mos., Palmer & Bowman, Saltville, Va. ....                            | 3525   |
| Marchioness of Barrington 4th, 9 yrs., J. S. Berry, Sharpsburg, Ky. ....                               | 1500   |
| Kirklevington Marchioness 3rd, yearling, T. S. Moberly, Richmond, Ky. ....                             | 750    |
| Lady Hillhurst Place, red, 2 years, J. M. Bigstaff, Mount Sterling, Ky. ....                           | 800    |
| 9th Duchess of Hillhurst, 2 years, O. M. Branson, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. ....                             | 8500   |
| 10th Duchess of Hillhurst, 2 years, W. H. Porroet, Fennel Duchess of Hillhurst, 2 years, T. S. Moberly | 7100   |
| Lady Minna Hillhurst, 2 years, S. E. Ward & Son, Westport, Mo. ....                                    | 900    |
| Kirklevington Marchioness 4th, 2 years, Palmer & Bowman. ....                                          | 700    |
| Oneida Mazurka, 2 years, W. A. Harris, Lawrence, Kans. ....                                            | 1000   |
| Bushbury Kirklevington Duchess 2nd, yearling, O. M. Branson. ....                                      | 600    |
| Bushbury Countess Barrington, 1 yr., O. M. Branson. ....                                               | 1500   |
| Lady Oxford Wild Eyes, yearling, T. C. Anderson                                                        | 2000   |
| 11th Duchess of Hillhurst, yearling, J. H. Kissenger, Kissenger, Mo. ....                              | 1000   |
| Marchioness of Barrington 7th, yearling, S. E. Ward & Son. ....                                        | 4700   |
| Oxford Princess, yearling, E. C. Thompson, Edinburg, Ind. ....                                         | 1000   |
| Imp. Duke of Oxford 35th, 7 years, De Witt W. Smith, Bates, Ill. ....                                  | 300    |
| Baron Barrington 28,505, 5 years, O. M. Branson                                                        | 1000   |
| Lord Wild Eyes Oxford 39,707, 2 years, Strawther                                                       | 500    |
| Givens, Abingdon. ....                                                                                 | 830    |
| 8th Duke of Hillhurst, yearling, J. H. Kissenger. ....                                                 | 3025   |

#### SUMMARY.

|                                                    |           |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 20 cows and heifers, average \$2252.25—Total. .... | \$45,045  |
| 4 bulls and b. calves do. 1213.75 do. ....         | 4,855     |
| 24 head, average. ....                             | \$2079.17 |
| Total. ....                                        | \$49,900  |

It is stated that the Tenth and Eleventh Duchesses of Hillhurst, though bid off in other names, were purchased for the Canada West Farm Stock Association, and will at once be included in the famous herds now owned at Bow Park and Glen Flora.

#### BOW PARK SALE.

The *Prairie Farmer* says:—"The attendance at Waukegan last Thursday, at the Bow Park sale of Shorthorns, was very good, and embraced a larger number of farmers and amateur breeders than the sale at Dexter Park on the preceding Tuesday. The cattle were in good condition, and averaged \$809.

#### COWS AND HEIFERS.

|                                                                                                         |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Adeliza 14th, red and little white; 3 years—to F. Collins, Richmond, Ill. ....                          | \$230 |
| 14th Countess of Goodness, red and little white; yearling—to J. S. Hammers, Pancola, Ill. ....          | 180   |
| Duchess 43rd of Woodhill, red with little white; 2 years—to Merchant Kelly, Kelly's Corners, Mich. .... | 390   |
| Countess of Goodness 13th, red; 2 years—to Jas. S. Hammers. ....                                        | 180   |

|                                                                                                  |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Kirklevington Duchess 24th, red with little white; 4 years—to N. P. Clark, St. Cloud, Minn. .... | \$750 |
| Kirklevington Duchess 30th, red roan, yearling—to N. P. Clark. ....                              | 600   |
| Udora 9th, roan; yearling—to B. C. Rumsey, Buffalo, N. Y. ....                                   | 810   |
| Roan Duchess 12th, red; 7 years—to J. M. Bigstaff. ....                                          | 810   |
| Rosabella 4th, red and little white; 8 years—to Winslow Bros., Kankakee, Ill. ....               | 805   |
| Royal Charming 9th, red roan; 8 years—to O. A. De Graff, Janesville, Minn. ....                  | 375   |
| Beauty of Woodhill, red roan; yearling—to same. ..                                               | 160   |
| Darlington 20th, red and little white; yearling—to Robert Ogilvie, Madison, Wis. ....            | 220   |
| Pauline 2nd, red roan; 2 years—to Alfred Coulter, Rossaville, Ohio. ....                         | 410   |
| Famora 7th, red and white; 4 years—to E. A. Osborn, Coffeetown, Kans. ....                       | 275   |
| Duchess 36th of Woodhill, red; 8 years—to Thos. Hughes, Hobron, Ind. ....                        | 205   |
| 2nd Emily of Springfield, red and little white; 4 years—to A. Neinstedt, Dubuque, Ia. ....       | 185   |
| Cambridge 17th, red with little white; 4 years—to E. Bower, Richmond, Ill. ....                  | 275   |
| Adeliza 17th, red and white; 2 years—to John Keith, North Bend, Neb. ....                        | 110   |

#### BULLS.

|                                                                                           |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| King o' the Forest, rich roan; yearling—to Robert Ogilvie. ....                           | 680 |
| Earl of Goodness 11th, red roan; yearling—to William Norris & Son, Arlington, Ill. ....   | 270 |
| Waterloo Duke 5th, red; yearling—to Luther Adams, Storm Lake, Ia. ....                    | 600 |
| 11th Duke of Kirklevington, red and little white; yearling—to B. C. Rumsey. ....          | 500 |
| Roan Duke 10th, red; yearling—to Oliver Oakley, Morrison, Ill. ....                       | 500 |
| Earl of Airdrie 5th, red roan; yearling—to J. S. Hammers. ....                            | 825 |
| Count Charming 4th, red and little white; yearling—to H. P. Puterbaugh, Lanark, Ill. .... | 140 |
| Baron Fawcley 7th, roan; yearling—to Dill Wiggins, South Bloomfield, O. ....              | 295 |
| Baron Paulin 2nd, roan; yearling—to E. A. Osborn. ....                                    | 265 |
| Royal Fame, roan; yearling—to W. A. Harris, Lawrence, Kans. ....                          | 115 |
| Baron Woodhill 21st, red and little white; yearling—to J. D. K. Smith, Eldora, Ia. ....   | 110 |
| Earl of Springfield, red and white; yearling—to A. Neinstedt. ....                        | 85  |
| Duke of Aylmer 3rd, red and little white; yearling—to O. C. Shaw, Newark, O. ....         | 280 |
| Baron Oak 2nd, red and little white; yearling—to J. M. Harman, Milford, Ill. ....         | 185 |
| Orpheus 11th, red and little white; yearling—to O. A. De Graff. ....                      | 105 |

#### BELVOIR AND MANOR HERDS.

The last of the late series of Shorthorns, at Dexter Park and Waukegan, took place at the Park on the 21st, being drafts from the Belvoir and Manor herds of Messrs. R. & J. Gibson, Ilderton, Ontario, Can. Forty-seven head sold for \$25,625—an average of \$566 per head. Following we give a list of the animals, purchasers, and prices:

|                                                                       |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Imported Bonfant Fantail—T. S. Moberly, Richmond, Ky. ....            | \$775 |
| Imported Wild Eyes Winsome—H. F. Brown, Minneapolis, Minn. ....       | 1850  |
| Imported Duchess Wild Eyes—J. M. Bigstaff, Mount Sterling, Ky. ....   | 4000  |
| Imported Bonfant Kirklevington—same. ....                             | 3200  |
| Imported Kirklevington Duchess 27th—S. White, Windsor, Can. ....      | 1575  |
| Imported Bonfant Duke of Oxford 3rd—B. C. Rumsey, Buffalo, N. Y. .... | 750   |
| Rosy Princess 7th—B. Sumner, Woodstock, Conn. ....                    | 800   |
| Gwynne Duchess 4th—B. C. Rumsey. ....                                 | 425   |
| Gwynne Duchess 7th—G. J. Haggarty, Hanover, Ohio. ....                | 300   |
| Lord Wynyard—A. M. Reeves, Richmond, Ind. ....                        | 125   |
| Lord Oxford Gwynne—A. R. Newport, Morris, Ill. ....                   | 150   |
| Golden Gwynne—Elijah Clore, Alamo, Ind. ....                          | 300   |
| Gwynne of the Manor—N. P. Clark, St. Cloud, Minn. ....                | 200   |
| Charming Gwynne—Gibson & Winthrop, Draper, Canada. ....               | 185   |
| Buckhurst—same. ....                                                  | 65    |
| Governess Gwynne—William Norris, Arlington, Illinois. ....            | 140   |
| Governess Gwynne 2nd—same. ....                                       | 275   |
| Governess Gwynne 4th—S. D. Cornell, Buffalo, N. Y. ....               | 100   |
| Governess Gwynne 3rd—O. C. Norton, Durant, Ia. ....                   | 115   |
| Imported Lady Rothesay Bates—B. C. Rumsey. ....                       | 625   |
| Imported Lady Hillhurst Bates 2nd—Emory Cobb, Kankakee, Ill. ....     | 725   |
| Lady Rosedale Bates—same. ....                                        | 300   |
| Fourth Constance of the Manor—N. P. Clark. ....                       | 525   |
| Fifth Constance of the Manor—O. DeGraff, Janesville, Minn. ....       | 650   |
| Third Constance of the Manor—same. ....                               | 700   |
| Constance of Lyndale 10th—N. P. Clark. ....                           | 650   |
| Baron Constance 4th—Harvey Sadowsky, Indianapolis, Ill. ....          | 515   |
| Countess of Darlington 4th—S. E. Ward & Son, Westport, Mo. ....       | 450   |
| Fifth Earl of Darlington—J. M. Harmon, Milford, Ill. ....             | 155   |