

Our Scottish Letter.

THE HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

Naturally the great topic of conversation here is the annual show of the Highland and Agricultural Society which has just closed. It was held on the South Inch, Perth, where in days gone by a great battle took place between conflicting Highland clans. The show has been a record one for the Society, which, under the management of Mr. Jas. Macdonald, has renewed its youth, and the success achieved this week will serve to make the old Society still more secure in public favor. It would be of small avail to give a detailed premium list or critical account of the show. What Canadian readers want is such an account as will convey to them an idea of the time of day in stock-breeding. Well, we have been marking time. The stock is quite as good as it has ever been, but I would not like to say that, judged by this show, it can be pronounced much better than it has been during the past ten or a dozen years.

Shorthorns.—In the Shorthorn world the Cruickshank type remains in undisputed possession. The best animals at Perth were almost without exception of this race, and one of the disappointments of the show was the absence of the Royal champion, Royal Herald, which is undoubtedly the best Booth bull on the path to-day. He was at the Yorkshire show at York, which began on Wednesday, and this rather interfered with the success of the Perth meeting. The champion of the breed at Perth was Mr. George Harrison's Champion Cup 65240, a truly magnificent example of the Scottish type, but yet bred and owned in England. His owner is Mr. George Harrison, Gainford Hall, Darlington, and no better judge has been seen in England for many a day than this gentleman. He has a fine taste in selecting his animal, and is an expert in bringing him out for the show-yard. The breeder of Champion Cup was Mr. J. Deane Willis, Codford, Wilts., one of the most extensive breeders of Shorthorns in Great Britain. The reserve champion was Mr. J. Douglas Fletcher's fine two-year-old Watchdog, bred at Collynie, by Mr. Duthie, and first last year as a yearling. In the female classes, Mr. Arthur W. Law, Mains of Sanguhar, Forbes, and his brother, Mr. C. E. Law, The Holl, Boharm, rather distinguished themselves. These gentlemen, like Mr. Harrison, are wonderfully clever at looking after their stock, and bring them out to perfection. In the East of Scotland, Mr. John Gilmour, of Montrave and Lundin, has almost as good a herd of Shorthorns as he has of Clydesdales, and more than one of the prize-winners came out of his herd. A popular breeder is Mr. A. Robertson, Haugh of Ballechin, Aberfeldy, in Perthshire. He has a fine eye and excellent judgment, and several of his breeding have been winners. Mr. Gordon Smith, of Menniore, Glenlivet, is another breeder who was successful in winning premiums at this show. He has a good herd, and his cattle are invariably well brought out. All of these gentlemen, without exception, are adherents to the Cruickshank cult, while not averse to experimenting in other lines. A notable illustration of this appeared in the second prize two-year-old heifer, Kirklevington Doll, which Mr. Fletcher bred from a Sittyleton bull and a Bates cow. She is a good one, and runs Mr. Law's Royal champion, Aggie Grace, hard enough for premier honors. Perhaps the chief interest in the Shorthorn section at present centers in the brisk demand which has sprung up from South America, and also from Australia and other parts of the world, for bulls. It is the one department of the agricultural world in which there is a ray of light.

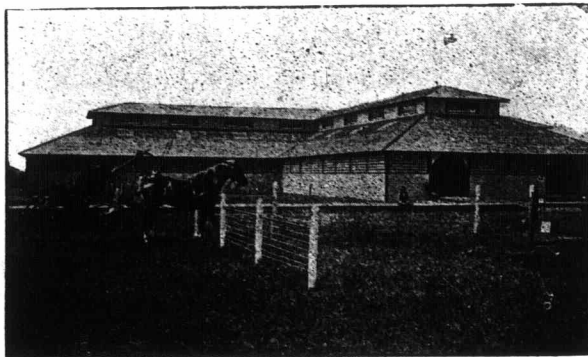
Aberdeen-Angus cattle are much in favor with the foreign visitors at Perth, and a larger number of bulls have been selected for exportation than has been usual in the past. As far as the show was concerned, it was very much a prolonged triumph for the strains identified with Ballindalloch. The best male, Mr. George Smith Grant's Equestrian, from Anchorachan, and the best female, Her Majesty's Gentian, from Abergeldie Mains, Ballater, were both bred at Ballindalloch, and in the final contest of first-prize winners for breed supremacy all but one were of the same line of descent. The exception was the reserve champion bull, Mr. J. Douglas Fletcher's Baron Ambrose, the first-prize yearling. A choice cow is Gentian, and although beaten at Aberdeen by the Anchorachan cow, Legend, a lovely, breeding-like animal, she is a hard animal to get over in the show-yard. The other successful winners included Mr. William Whyte, Spott, Kirriemuir, and his son, Mr. Arch. Whyte. The Spott herd is a very old and very healthy stock. The cattle are big and wealthy in flesh, and it is a tribute to their merits that a Spott bull, Junior Rover, was hired for service for one season in the Ballindalloch herd. Lord Roseberry has become a spirited breeder of both Shorthorn and Aberdeen-Angus cattle, and in both departments he was this year securing honorable mention.

Galloways and Ayrshires were well represented at Perth. The championship of the former breed was secured by Mr. John Cunningham, Durham-hill, Dalbeattie, with a Tarbreoch-bred cow, Dora, and the championship of the dairy breed by Mr. Alexander Cross, of Knockdon, Ayrshire, with Judy, a cow of his own breeding. Sir Robert Jardine, Bart.; the Duke of Buccleuch; Mr. William Parkin-Moore, of Whitehall, Mealsgate, Carlisle; and Mr. Graham, Harelawhill, Laugholm, were other exhibitors of Galloways who secured good prizes. Mr. Robert Montgomerie, Lessnessock,

Ochiltree, exhibited successfully in the Ayrshire section, as did also Mr. Robert McKinlay, Hillhouse, Lanark; Sir Mark J. Stewart, Bart.; Mr. Hugh Drummond, Craighead, Manachline; and Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Barcheskie, Kircudbright. Highlanders were forward in force and made a record appearance. Mr. John Stewart, of Eusay, Obbe, was again breeder and owner of the champion—a two-year-old bull, the like of which has seldom been seen before.

Clydesdales.—In this section the two American-bred horses, Prince Sturdy and Prince Shapely, which the Messrs. Montgomery bought from Colonel Holloway, were exhibited. Prince Sturdy, the older and better horse of the two, was placed third in his class, and Prince Shapely, the younger, was placed first in his. The award in the first case was keenly criticised, and either the second-prize horse, Mr. W. S. Park's Prince of Erskine, or Prince Sturdy would have been a popular winner; but the judges placed a horse named King of the Roses, bred in Bute and owned by the Messrs. Montgomery, first, and afterwards awarded him the championship. There is no use denying that the decision is by no means generally popular. Prince of Erskine is a wonderfully level, evenly and well-balanced horse. He moves well, and is a true Clydesdale. Prince Sturdy is a grand horse, with excellent feet, good bone, and fine action, but for some reason which we are unable to explain, he was not showing himself or shown with much style. This is not his usual style, and, as we have said, we do not understand it. Prince Shapely is a beautiful horse and a fine mover at the trot. He is not, however, as good at the ground as his brother, nor has he quite as broad flat bones. He makes a beautiful picture broadside on. In the female classes triumphs awaited the famous Montrave stud of Mr. Gilmour, the championship going to his grand mare, Montrave Maud, the daughter of Prince of Wales 673 and Moss Rose 6203. The first brood mare was Mr. Thomas Smith's Belle of Fashion, from Blacon Point, Chester, a lovely mare, true in character, and like a Clydesdale. Sir Robert Moncrieffe, Bart., was first with a fine four-year-old mare, named Mayfly, of the Barlae Doll race and got by Macgregor; and fillies by Lord Lothian, Royalist, and Sir Everard were respectively first in the younger classes.

"SCOTLAND YET."



THE NEW WINNIPEG EXHIBITION SHEEP BUILDING.

Shoeing Horses.

Lieutenant-General Sir F. Fitzwygram (Eng.), in a pamphlet on horse-shoeing, summarizes as follows what should be looked for in a newly-shod horse:

- 1.—No mark of the rasp on the hoof.
- 2.—Sole not been pared out.
- 3.—Frog not been pared unless ragged.
- 4.—Bars not been cut away.
- 5.—Nailing as regular as the state of crust admits of.
- 6.—Nails in a normal hoof brought out one inch above the shoe, and in flat feet a little lower.
- 7.—Shoe neither larger nor smaller than the crust, nor longer than the hoof, except in heavy draft horses.
- 8.—Feet the same length.
- 9.—Nails fitted accurately into the nail holes.
- 10.—Clinches not rasped after being turned down.

The Extinction of Swine Fever.

Professor M'Fadyean recently read an important paper on this subject at the meeting of the National Veterinary Association. He lays particular stress upon the fact that in the term of years before the present system was adopted by the Board of Agriculture, under the Act of 1893, the total number of outbreaks of the disease was 8,343, although no doubt there were many cases which were not reported, whereas in 1894 and 1895 the number of outbreaks numbered 12,269.

Hence, he characterizes the new operations as a decided failure. Professor M'Fadyean would impose much more severe restrictions on the movements of swine in those districts where the disease exists; but he does not believe in any partial or tentative scheme. He admits the difficulties, and even the losses, which affect the farmer and the dealer, but he urges that if they adopt a more drastic system in place of no system at all, the disease could be stamped out in a comparatively short period. The speakers at the meeting, all of whom were veterinary surgeons of widespread experience, concurred in the belief that the money spent in the attempt to deal with the disease was wasted, that slaughter was ineffective, and that the infected circles should be larger.

FARM.

Silo Filling on the "Annandale Farm."

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Mr. Tillson, who spares no time or money to perfect his ensilage—1,000 tons of which is put in silo every year—finds that early planting in spring, and as late cutting as is safe from frost, gives mature corn for ensilage. Here we start cutting our 50 or 60 acres by hand about 10th September, using sickles. On the day of cutting, the corn is allowed to remain on the ground to wilt, when it is tied up in bundles, half of which are put in shock and allowed to remain there until next day, when, even with a rain or dew, the corn is fairly dry, and teams can go right to work hauling early in the morning. The men keep a day ahead with cutting. We are adverse to putting up corn in a wet state. It is hauled in on a hayracked wagon, loading up to 3,500 to 4,000 pounds. In the barn a large table is erected, 16x8 ft., and sloping towards wagon, behind cutting-machine. Two men unload, making it lively for our two stalwart feeders, who run through 70 to 80 tons per day. The elevating system adopted by Mr. Tillson is as perfect as I have ever seen—elevators so arranged that corn is dropped by chute into any of the five silos as is deemed fit, and without any loss of time. One or two men attend to the leveling; and while believing it to be necessary to have ensilage perfectly firm and corners [we have square silos] packed, I am under the impression, from my experience, that excessive pressure will help to sour the ensilage, and this idea is borne out by the fact that where the silos are 44 feet deep and drained by sewer pipe from the bottom, halfway down the silage is considerably more sour than further up, where the pressure is less; moreover, the corn, to me, seems to lose a valuable amount of its succulence in having the juice pressed out. After filling, the top is covered with alfalfa, which is cut green and put through cutting-box, and answers the purpose admirably, as it rots and thus forms a mold or crust which excludes the air. Cut straw or oathulls, saturated with water, will also make a good covering.

We never had any ensilage spoil, and no bad effects from feeding. At the same time, I would not feed more than 40 to 45 pounds per cow per day, and the individuality of the cow must be considered even then.

In mature corn ensilage we have one of the best products of our Canadian farm, fed as it should be with hay, straw or other bulky fodder, balanced with a grain ration. Farmers now realize the great value and actual necessity of good ensilage, which we can grow and put in silo at a cost of about a dollar and a half per ton.

This season has, for corn, been an exceptionally good one, and our 50 acres bids fair to average a yield of over 20 tons to the acre; several varieties now at roasting stage. We are experimenting this summer with hand planting and drilling, in order to see which way of seeding will produce the largest crop.

Norfolk Co., Ont.

Supt.

Silo Filling in Huron County.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—With reference to the handling of our corn crop, we cut it when the ears are well glazed, the ripest ears being almost ready to use for seed if allowed to ripen up in the shock. Having the corn planted in hills, we cut by hand with the sickle, cutting two rows at a time and dropping two hills into one armful, which can be taken up quickly and loaded crosswise upon the wagons.

We use truck wagons, and for a rack we use the bottoms of our hayracks with a pin at each corner to prevent the corn falling off. Properly matured corn does not require to be wilted.

For cutting we use a cylinder-knife ensilage cutter, such as is built by several leading manufacturers. We drive our machine with an engine; elevate the corn into the silo with carriers, being careful to mix stalk, cob and leaf all together evenly over the silo.

I really think the corn after being leveled does not require much tramping.

Fill continuously from start to finish, and when full cover with straw to a foot in depth; saturate thoroughly with water in order to wet the straw and get it to lie close upon the corn. This completes the system of operation which we follow.

Huron Co., Ont.

THOS. MCMILLAN.

Silo Filling at the Central Experimental Farm.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Time of Cutting.—Cut when the cobs are in good condition for boiling. Always plant two sorts of corn, so that one would be earlier than the other for convenience in harvesting.

Implements.—Use a corn hook with handle about two feet long. Throw the corn down in armfuls as you cut for convenience of picking up. I have tried many other plans and machines, but the time lost in gathering is so great that it pays best to cut with a hook. There was a corn harvester and binder tried on Mr. E. W. Clark's farm last autumn that gave very good satisfaction. He afterwards purchased the machine. I shall have a chance to see it work again this autumn.

Cutting into Silo.—Cut in half-inch lengths. Level and tramp thoroughly, especially in the