

An International Shorthorn Sale.

The announcement in our advertising columns in this issue of the approaching great sale at Chicago of sixty head of high-class imported and Canadian-bred Shorthorn cattle from the noted herd of Mr. W. D. Platt, of Hamilton, Ont., including a considerable number of the prizewinning animals at the leading shows of Great Britain and Canada in the last two or three years, is an occasion of such unusual interest as to call for more than casual comment.

There has been no time in the last half of the century when the need for the distribution in America of cattle of the class embraced in this offering was greater than at present. A distinct shortage of cattle of the beef type all over the continent is an acknowledged feature of the situation, while the market prices, present and prospective, for beef cattle and for breeding stock are such as to inspire confidence and a feeling of safety on the part of breeders in setting full sail to the breezes that blow and are likely to blow for some years in the stockman's favor. These cattle were bred or purchased and imported by Mr. Platt at great cost, his ambition being to hold, as he does, a prominent place in the front rank of American breeders of Shorthorns on the basis of the superior individual excellence of the animals found in his herd, and to this end, in the selection of his latest importations, in no case has the price been allowed to intervene in the attainment of his object. In many instances, indeed, we are assured it was only by the intervention of influential and skilled diplomats that the wealthy owners were induced to name a price, the instructions being to promptly close a bargain when that point was reached, though the figures were in some instances such as would have staggered a man of less nerve or weaker faith in the future of the breed. In the purchase of these cattle, Mr. Platt had no intention of offering them for sale at this time, his object being rather to make a selection from them and from his home herd for exhibition at the leading shows in Canada and the United States as an advertisement, and afterwards to retain them in his herd, trusting to the permanency of the demand to pay for them through their progeny, but at the earnest solicitation of leading Shorthorn breeders he has been induced, in the interest of the breed, to offer them at public competition at a time and place which, through the participation of Canadian and American devotees of the cosmopolitan "red, white and roans," appears to be opportune and fitting to make a success of the venture and a record for the breed. If such be not the outcome, it will not be the fault of Mr. Platt, who has spared no expense in getting together and presenting in fine condition what we have no hesitation in pronouncing as unquestionably the best collection of cattle that has ever been offered at public sale in America from the standpoint of individual merit and good breeding combined. We are conscious that this is saying a great deal, but we speak advisedly, from a personal knowledge of the record, and in the light of observation and experience gained in half a century of close acquaintance with the breed and the breeders.

It is rarely that the opportunity offers in any country to bid at a public sale for a cow in her early prime that has been twice a first prize winner at the Royal Show of England, and is a regular breeder, nursing her own calves and doing it well; but such a cow is included in this offering, as well as an in-calf 2-year-old heifer from the same herd and family, which was being fitted for the Royal this year, and it is confidently believed by those who have seen the winners that she would have taken first place there had she not been claimed for Canada before the event. There are also many others in the collection which were prizewinners at prominent shows in Scotland and England, where competition is quite as keen as at the Royal, and where none but toppers can win. In the list of the imported animals catalogued for the sale there are numerous sons and daughters of noted prizewinning bulls, which are the sires of prizewinners in profusion, and some of the females are in calf to Royal champions, as well as being the daughters and granddaughters of championship winners.

A noticeable and regrettable feature of the public sales of Shorthorns held in America this year and last has been the lack of high-class bulls available, a fact which has reflected on the average prices realized for the offerings. This will not be the case in Mr. Platt's sale, as a really strong force of meritorious young bulls are included, among which are the two grand 2-year-old sons of ex-Premier Greenway's champion bull, Judge, which were alternately first and second prize winners at Canada's leading fairs last year, and which, while well-nigh perfect in symmetry of proportions and full of quality, have size to match, and will each tip the scales at over a ton before the day of sale. Only the will to meet the wishes of prominent breeders that the offering of bulls should be made a strong one

has led to the decision to catalogue the favorite stock bull, imported Golden Fame, now in his 3-year-old form, and just at the time when his calves by their excellence are attesting his prepotence as a sire. He has been considered too valuable as a breeder to justify loading him with flesh for the showing, and he has been freely used in the herd, but he is in fine condition, standing well on his legs and true in all his lines, and in the light of his success as a breeder is worth to-day at least four times the sum of the plucky bid which secured him for the Trout Creek herd only two and a half years ago, when the revival of trade was dawning, and the price paid was a record one in Shorthorn sales for a decade on this side of the sea. The younger imported bulls are a uniformly good lot of most desirable type, full of quality, and promising to grow into show bulls.

The Canadian contingent of females includes the sweepstakes cow at the three greatest shows in Ontario last year, and her half-sister of the same age, who has been alternately placed first and second to her in their class in the showing each year since they were in the calf list, while another half-sister, all being daughters of imported Royal Sailor, stood a worthy second at Toronto as a yearling in 1899. The charming heifer illustrated on this page, a model of bovine perfection, and an outstanding first as under a year in strong competition around the circuit of shows above referred to last year, is one of the plums in the offering, and will meet the expectations of the most exacting. Remembering that it is freely granted on both sides of the international line that to win first or second honors at Toronto in the Shorthorn class as a rule stamps the winner as good enough to "go up head" in any contest in the camp of the red, white and roans on this continent, some idea may be formed of the caliber of Miss Canada as personified in the make-up of this sale list. We risk little in venturing the

scale and constitution are happily combined with quality, smoothness and finish in the highest degree. This is just as all sensible breeders know and have long known in their hearts, or their better judgment it should be, and we congratulate Shorthorn breeders the world over on the dawn of a day in which pedigree prejudices and color fads and fancies are dying and men are looking for substance rather than shadows. These remarks are in no sense an apology for the pedigrees of Mr. Platt's cattle, but are rather commendatory, for those who want Scotch, and the best Scotch only, can find it in the catalogue to their heart's content, while those who want something better than Scotch and only Scotch will find just what they are looking for, with just enough Scotch to make them better. Nor need we apologize for the colors, for those who are not yet sufficiently enlightened to have gotten over the absurd prejudice that calls only for "red and all red" may have it here put up in precious parcels, while those who are willing to take the winning color, not because it is roan, but because quality and thickness of flesh so generally go with that color, will find rich roans galore and to the Queen's taste.

The phenomenal lists of prizes hung up by the Fair Associations and Breeders' Associations in the United States and Canada this year, representing the largest amounts of money ever offered in America, excepting, perhaps, at the World's Fair, make this a peculiarly favorable opportunity to equip and strengthen show herds, not only for this year's contests, but also for the Pan-American Exposition, which is to signalize the opening of the twentieth century, and as all the leading exhibitions in both countries are wide open, they may well be regarded as international events, as is also this sale, and we trust that Canadian breeders will see that the plums do not all find a home on the other side of the line.

We are willing to believe there is sufficient enterprise among Canadian breeders to bring a fair share of them back to Canada. We are very sure that if any other Canadian breeder were offering such cattle at Chicago, Mr. Platt would have the ambition to secure at least one or two of them, as he has been a liberal buyer at many sales in the Dominion. Nothing could give a breeder a better advertisement than to be a buyer at this sale, and nothing could do more to give Canada a better standing with the United States. The question of distance cuts little figure in this affair, as Chicago is quite as near to Canada as to many of the States which are likely to be represented at the sale, and as the consent of the Minister of Agriculture has been obtained, that animals purchased at the sale may return to Canada on the tuberculin test which has been made to admit them into the United States, there are no regulations to hamper or detain them, but parties attending the sale may bring their purchases home with them, and we hope to see Canadian breeders in strong force participating in the international Shorthorn tournament in the city by the lake on the seventh of August. Further reference to the sale list will be found in the Stock Gossip columns in this issue.



QUEEN OF THE LOUANS.

First-prize Shorthorn heifer under a year, at Toronto, London and Ottawa Exhibitions, 1899.
TO BE INCLUDED IN W. D. PLATT'S CHICAGO SALE, AUG. 7TH. (See Gossip, page 120.)

Not be Led.

og-raising in the Wallace Farmer. They will. They g hogs that have their good looks quite true that an merit. Breed- cate the farmers, by them, and if raise pigs for the muscle, activity, feeding that the ch to put a solid e which the breed-

rs of all kinds of ys looking at the breed what the rs want the right ess is on a sandy rs fat pigs. Send in get-up-and-get-on prizewinning, for substance of w pigs on the scale ell you don't buy at scale. Either keep it for show eders don't do this, gray, brown, black, color of hogs that uth if they can ur firm conviction of the Poland-China but in the breed- confidence of the nt the poorer farm- they want, but nt and which the her they think so

opinion that the verdict of breeders on the day of sale will be that these Canadians, in conformation and quality, measure well up to the standard of the best that are produced in any country, while their breeding is in the purple, being descendants of the best of imported ancestors from the home of the breed.

An inspection of the cattle and a review of their pedigrees and description in the catalogue shows that Mr. Platt, in his breeding and selections, while recognizing and fully appreciating the undoubted value of the best individuals among Scotch-bred cattle in the evolution of the most approved type of Shorthorns of the present day, has shown the courage of his convictions, gained by personal observation of British and Canadian herds and showings, which are that the best individuals are not as a rule produced by a slavish following of narrow lines of breeding, but by a judicious blending of the blood of the best obtainable of all good sorts. It was on this principle that the late Mr. Cruickshank proved his genius as a breeder in producing the type of cattle which brought him fame and fortune, and though in the latter days of his breeding operations, by force of a combination of circumstances, he was led to confine himself to narrower limits, it is an open secret that with all his extraordinary intuition he had reached a point where he was perplexed by these limitations, feeling that a new departure was needed if the individual excellence of his cattle were to be maintained. But it remained for others, ardent admirers of his life work, but with a freer hand, to make the move it was well understood his ripe judgment would have approved, and the satisfactory result may be plainly seen in the character of the cattle that are winning in the British show-yards of to-day, and in the magnificent collection listed for the Platt sale, in which size,

The Ever Popular Horse.

The Chicago Horseman says: "As many as 40,000 were out last Saturday to see the Derby, which prompts the daily Journal to sagely remark that the time will never come when one-tenth as many people will be attracted to see horseless carriages race for any sum, however large. The annual parade through Grand Boulevard and Washington Park was the most gorgeous of any that have taken place. The array of fine horses was beyond question larger and better in every way than any that have preceded it. Those who imagine that the horse has lost one whit of his popularity would have come to their senses had they seen it. Now and then a wheezing, rattling automobile broke in upon the beauty of the spectacle, driver and occupants running a two-mile gauntlet of derisive jeers. The presence of the machines only served to emphasize the nobility of the horses with which they mingled."

Barley Meal as a Pig Food.

Barley meal is *facile princeps*—in other words, "admitted chief"—as a food for pigs. As is well known, however, it is not advisable to employ for pigs or any other variety of stock any particular food by itself; mixtures always give better results than single foods alone, no matter how excellent such foods may be. For the production of pork of the best description there is nothing better than a mixture consisting of two parts of barley meal and one part each of pea meal and wheat meal; these to be given in conjunction with cooked potatoes or other foods to supply the necessary bulk. — *Farmers Gazette.*