

Shorthorns bred in Ireland. The idea is a good one, and by and bye the results will be seen. But we are leaving our text. After Ballindalloch, in respect of an average came Mr. Kennedy's herd at Doonholm, a newly-founded herd, in which Erica blood has played a great part. The average for five bulls from Doonholm was £43 1s., and the next best averages were £41 12s. 2d. made by Auchorachan, and £41 6s. made by Colonel McInroy, of The Burn, an Angus breeder. All the Ballindalloch high-priced specimens were got by Delamere, one of the best bulls of the breed in recent years.

Highland cattle-breeders had a good bull sale at Oban this week. The highest price was nearly one-tenth that of the highest-priced Shorthorn, viz., £60. He was a bull stirk or yearling, bred by Mr. John Macdonald, Duntulm, and was purchased by Sir William Ogilvy, Dalgleish, Bart., Errol, Perth. Other good prices were £59, for a magnificent four-year-old bull, bred by the Duke of Sutherland at Dunrobin, and sold to Lord Malcolm, of Poltalloch; £40 for the first-prize two-year-old bull; £56 for the third; £52 for the fourth; £50 for the fifth; while the second was withdrawn unsold at £62. He was the favorite among all the bulls offered. As illustrating the different points of view from which good bulls may be regarded, it may be mentioned that the third highest-priced Shorthorn bull at Perth (360 gs.) was only placed sixth in his class, and the Highland bull stirk placed sixth in his class made £40, being much more than any of those placed in front of him except the first. Sixty-eight Highland bulls at Oban made an average of £26 8s. 8d. each.

Clydesdales are again being sent to Canada for this season, and the report from the Toronto Show indicates that the trade is likely to be good this year. Mr. William Colquhoun, Mitchell, Ont., an old friend, has shipped two well-bred horses, calculated to take your market, and Messrs. Bawden & Macdonnell, from Exeter, have made a shipment since I last wrote. Mr. Colquhoun bought his horses from Messrs. Montgomery, Castle-Douglas, and the Exeter firm, as usual, made their trade with Mr. Peter Crawford, Dumfries.

Another matter of common interest is the effort to improve Cheddar cheese in this country. It has at length gone home to the understanding of the Galloway makers that Canadian cheese threatens their market, and there is no longer a disposition to treat the matter as one of little moment. The feeling at a well-attended conference, held in Castle-Douglas, was that the distance between the Scots and the Canadian cheddar might again be increased, and no doubt there are advantages in favor of the home maker which ought always to put him ahead a bit. It is idle to go on making cheese which only competes with oversea products. There is vast room for improvement, and one would feign hope that the lessons to be learned from other peoples will not be wholly lost on our makers at home.

"SCOTLAND YET."

### Our English Letter.

The embargo on Canadian cattle is kept very much to the front just now in Parliament and in the press, but the Government, strongly backed by the agricultural papers, sit still and do nothing. They croak enough about the possibilities of disease being imported, whereby our valuable herds would be decimated, etc., etc., but no evidence of disease can they produce. They pretend to be frightened by a bogey of their own making, whereas the simple truth is they enjoy the protection the Act affords, and they won't let it go if by any means they can attain their end.

The season of horse shows in London has come round again, and, as usual, that of the Shire Horse Society is first on the list. Compared with last year, the entries show a decrease of 181—681, against 862 (which was a record entry). It seems certain that with the advance of mechanical traction the Shire horse will be the first to go. He is not beautiful; he is not speedy; his only virtue is his horse-power. Given an engine that will do the same work equally well, and do it cheaper, no sentimental considerations will save the cart horse from extinction. As a show, the animals are of rare merit, and the judges had no light task in awarding the prizes, which, by the way, are very generous. His Majesty the King, accompanied by the Queen, paid a visit to the Royal Agricultural Hall on Wednesday afternoon, and had a splendid reception. Both the King and Queen were looking remarkably well. The winner of the champion and challenge cups for Shire stallions was Lord Rothschild, who secured the trophies with the four-year-old stallion, Giron Charmer. As his Lordship won the cup a year ago, it now becomes his absolute property. Lord Rothschild scored another great success in winning the fifty-guinea (\$250.00) challenge cup, offered for the best Shire mare or filly, with his nine-year-old black mare, Princess Beryl. The success of Lord Rothschild, in securing both the male and female championships, was deservedly popular, for he has long been a steady and consistent supporter of the Shire breed, and is, moreover, the new President of the Shire Horse Society.

The wheat market at Mark Lane is in a very tranquil state. The past week's arrivals of foreign are large, nearly 100,000 grs., and the demand is very quiet. The unfavorable crop news from India has had the effect of causing a smart advance in Indian wheats, and in a lesser degree this has been reflected upon La Plata descriptions, and Russians. Australians are also held rather high, but are difficult to sell at any advance. It is quite natural that any probability of a

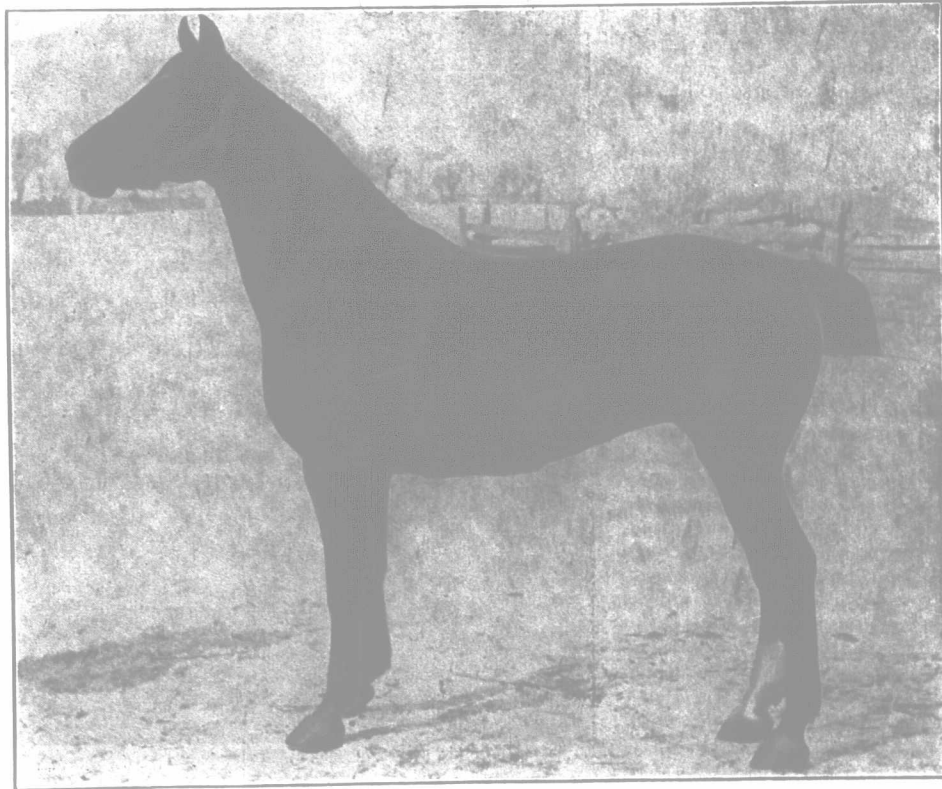
lessening supply of Indian wheat should have a strengthening effect upon the market, because it is necessary that we should have fully as much Indian and Russian wheat during the next six months as we have received in the past five, if our foreign supplies during this period are to equal our current requirements. Prices: No. 2 N., Manitoba, landed, \$9.48; No. 3, landed, \$9; No. 2 Calcutta, landed, \$7.68; Russian on the spot held up to \$8.64. For shipment there is little enquiry, except for the best. Argentine and Australian, quoted \$8.40.

Flour is the problem of the day. Minnesota and Illinois preserve an attitude of unabated firmness, and \$7.92 is the lowest price for their best spring wheat flour. This is regarded as a fancy quotation. For Australian flour, \$6.25 is paid, but it lacks strength, and does not move off well. Argentina sends some flour, which at \$6.72 is still cheap, but the poorer Argentine sorts are only fit for feeding purposes, and the same applies to low-grade American. There are a few samples of fine Russian in Mark Lane, for which \$7.40 is paid, but the supply behind the samples is small, and they do not in consequence affect values generally.

There has been a decided advance in spot values of maize at Mark Lane. La Plata is worth \$5.80, landed, and mixed American, \$5.04.

The live cattle trade is in a very depressed condition, which is not to be wondered at, when the very low prices ruling for beef at the central markets are taken into consideration. On Monday last 631 States beasts were sold at 10½c. to 11½c. per pound, and on Wednesday, although 1,730 were in the lairs at Deptford, only 815 were offered, and with difficulty were disposed of at Monday's rates.

Deptford, Saturday, 25th.—1,585 U. S. cattle, 10½c.



Minona —237—.

Five-year-old Hackney mare. Winner of second-prize, International Show, Chicago. Sire Robin Adair 2nd, imp. In the Waverly Stud of Mr. Robert Beith, Bowmanville, Ont. To be sold by auction, March 29.

to 11½c.; 315 Canadian cattle, 10½c. to 11½c.; 329 Canadian sheep, no quotation; 1,200 States beasts were withheld from the sale. Trade very slow.

The beef trade in Smithfield is wretched; the low prices accepted for really choice Argentine chilled affects all other kinds. Scotch sides, 11c. to 12c.; English, 10½c. to 11c.; U. S. chilled hinds, 9½c. to 10c.; fores, 6c. to 6½c. Argentine chilled hinds, 7c.; fores, 5c. per pound. Mutton is very firm, and makes good prices. Scotch sheep, 15c.; legs, to 17c.; English sheep, 14½c.

Bacon—It turned out this week that retailers were shorter of stocks than was generally supposed, and the bacon market has been further strengthened accordingly. Canadian cures have been in good demand, and supplies being only moderate, the opportunity has been seized of raising prices all round. Davies' bacon now makes 10½c. to 11½c. per pound, with seconds and parcels out of cold storage in proportion.

Hams attract little general notice, and although prices are much below those of last February, the dealers evince no desire to get into stock. Canadian long-cut green, 8½c. to 10½c.; short-cut green, 9c. to 9½c. per pound.

Colonial butter (that is, Australian and N. Z.) continues to take the lead in the amount of business done, and finds its way into consumption as fast as it arrives. The prices mostly paid are 21½c. to 22c., with an occasional 22½c. for best brands, and 20c. to 21c. for inferior, which are daily getting scarcer.

In the market for Canadian cheese a little more life has been manifested, and larger contracts have been completed; but the forward movement has been scarcely strong enough to influence values in favor of holders, and the purchases have not gone much beyond

11c. to 11½c. per pound on the spot. On c.i.f. terms, 11½c. is about the nearest value for coolest makes, with no great disposition shown to buy thereat. New Zealand cheese is selling well, and is running the Canadian makes very close, at 10½c. to 11½c. per pound.

Apples—Values are, if anything, a shade higher, and as shipments last week for the U. K. were the smallest since the commencement of the season, a further important improvement is looked for. Baldwins realize \$2.90 to \$3.90, according to condition, and Russets from \$4.30 to \$5.30.

### Eastern Ontario Winter Fair Lectures at Ottawa.

#### MAKING BABY BEEF.

The lecture-room was crowded when President G. C. Creelman, of the Ontario Agricultural College, opened the meeting for the discussion of beef topics. Prof. Grisdale was the first speaker, and gave an excellent address on the advantages of finishing beef cattle so that they could be marketed at the age of two years. Calves of good beef type and breeding, if pushed along rapidly, could be made to gain two pounds a day, and weigh from 1,200 to 1,400 pounds at 24 months. The three great advantages were economy of gain, saving in time, and saving in interest on investment. Experiments at the Central Experimental Farm had shown that up to six months old a calf would put on flesh at a cost of three cents a pound; from six to twelve months, at four to five cents; from one to two years, at from five to six cents; and from two to three years, at from seven to ten cents. Therefore, the greater the amount of flesh put on before the age of two years the greater the profit. There was also a great saving in

time, as it was possible to feed 15 steers to the age of two years as easily as to feed 10 to the age of three years. In this way, too, there was a saving of one-third of the interest on the investment.

He advocated feeding calves on skim milk, with a little flaxseed jelly; adding a little grain as soon as they would eat it. Plenty of green or succulent food was essential to success; oats and vetches, alfalfa and turnips were most satisfactory. The second winter they should eat about 4 pound of grain per 100 pounds live weight, gradually increasing the quantity to double that amount. In feeding, uniformity in quantity, quality, temperature, time and cleanliness were all important. In the discussion which followed, Mr. John Davidson

instanced the case of a calf weighing 1,000 pounds at twelve months, which was sold for \$60.

#### HOW TO IMPROVE OUR EXPORT CATTLE.

Mr. Robert Miller, Stouffville, gave some capital advice on the improvement of our export cattle. Cows should be free from dairy blood, and the sires used should be pure-bred Shorthorns, Herefords, Aberdeen-Angus, or Galloway. Some of the desirable points were short legs, deep bodies, well-sprung ribs, thickness through heart, legs wide apart, medium bone, good coat of hair, and natural thickness of flesh. These points were common to the good cattle of all these breeds, and it was wise to choose the breed best suited to one's conditions and fancy. If breeding cows were of uniform type, it was much easier to have a nice even lot of steers to attract the buyers. The best buyers for export go to Chicago, because at such a center they can find large numbers of uniform type to fill orders. Cattle should be marketed as soon as ready. Mr. Miller said he did not believe in feeding grain to calves that were getting whole milk. Messrs. N. F. Wilson, M.P.; W. H. Taylor, R. R. Sangster, A. W. Smith, J. M. Gardhouse, and others favored the grain ration, but Mr. Miller cited the experience of Messrs. Duthie and Marr, of Scotland, and Robbins, of Indiana, to show that the practice was not only unnecessary, but injurious.

#### CANADIAN CATTLE IN BRITISH MARKETS.

Prof. G. E. Day said that personal investigation had led him to believe that there was no line of demarcation between Canadian and other beef in Britain. Frozen and chilled beef were, of course, in different classes, but outside of those beef was classified accord-