

was the reserve. In the contest for the best steer in the show he also stood reserve to the Hereford champion which pulled off this honor. In the Aberdeen-Angus section the champion at both of the great English shows was Mr. J. Douglas Fletcher's heifer, Miss Fluffy, a true specimen of the breed, and bred by her owner. Several other first prizes fell to Mr. Fletcher's lot at Birmingham, and thus Rosshie scored again. Sir George Macpherson Grant, Bart., has entered the field as an exhibitor of fat stock, and secured the championship at Inverness with the heifer Mantlet, and the reserve championship at London with the steer Rattler. Both are very well-bred animals, and their success shows that Sir George can feed as well as breed. His manager now is Alexander Turner, a son of Mr. Robert Turner, Cairnton of Boyndie, Portsoy, one of the most successful feeders in the north of Scotland. Young Turner has made a good start for Ballindalloch. The Highlanders are great favorites with the London butchers, and no class of cattle sell more rapidly than they. This year the chief honors went to one of the most spirited patrons of the breed, Mr. William Nemmo, Castle Eden, Durham, and the reserve to Sir John Swinburne, Bart., Capheaton, Northumberland, another tried patron of the mountaineers. These picturesque animals have seldom been forward in greater force than at the show which closed to-day, and, as indicating their popularity with London butchers, we may mention that the third prize steer, which was also a champion at Inverness, was sold alive for £55, or at the rate of nearly 70s. per cwt. of 112 pounds. No other class of cattle kill with so large a percentage of lean meat, and this gives point to the argument of a well-known English farmer, that you cannot have lean meat without bone, nor bone without age. This gentleman is an opponent of the craze for baby beef, the animals which produce that being characterized by him as whipstick-legged animals. There is likely to be more heard about this. The chief rival of the Highlander in the favor of the London first-class butcher is the hardy Galloway. This year the representatives of this splendid old breed were forward in great force, and a really choice display was made. Mr. Murray Stewart, of Cally Gatehouse—a Galloway laird who has never forsaken beef for dairying—won the championship with a splendid bullock named Anthony. This prime animal was bred in Wigtownshire, and nothing almost could beat him as a good butcher's bullock. The reserve champion was his neighbor, bred by Mr. H. C. Stephens, M. P., Cholderton, Salisbury, an English patron, and Mr. W. Parkin-Moore, of Whitehall, Mealsgate, Cumberland, a liberal patron, secured two first prizes. Other choice cattle of the same breed were shown by Messrs. Bggar & Sons, gentlemen who have never swerved from their devotion to the old breed of the Province.

Notable as these triumphs are, there is better behind. A block test was for the first time instituted this year at the Smithfield Show. There were two classes, one for steers over and another for steers under two years old. In the first a Highland bullock, owned by Lord Cawdor, Nairn, won. He was reserve champion alive at Inverness. The next three bullocks placed in order were all Galloways, their owners being the gentlemen already named—Messrs. Murray Stewart, Parkin-Moore, and Biggar & Sons. The Highlander's figures were in some way bungled in the official returns, but, working them out for ourselves, we make him to have killed 66.4 per cent. dead to live weight. The second Galloway, 64.8; third Galloway, 61.2; and the fourth, 68.3. It is little wonder that these old breeds are first favorites with the butchers. Amongst other breeds represented in this section were the Red Polled, Aberdeen-Angus, Shorthorn, and Hereford. In the class for young steers, a cross-bred from Mr. John Ross, Meikle Tarrel, was first. His live weight was 11 cwt. 3q. 6 lbs., and his dead weight, 7 cwt. 3q. 2 lbs., or 63.6 per cent. A Sussex was second, a Red Polled third, and an A.-A. fourth. The carcass of the first Highland ox was sold at almost 1s. per lb. to Mr. Harry Grant, a well-known West End London butcher. In the block test for sheep Scotland came equally well to the front. The first prize carcass in the long-wool section was that of a Blackface wether belonging to Mr. Gilmour, of Montave. A Cheviot from Sutherlandshire was second, and a half-bred, or cross between a Border Leicester ram and a Cheviot ewe, was third. Another Blackface wether carcass was fourth. The worst carcasses in this section were those of the Lincoln, English Leicester, and Devon breeds. First prize for carcasses of short-wooled sheep was won by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales with a Southdown. It was sold at 11d. per lb. The other Down breeds, which were strongly represented in this section, made a very poor show indeed, the mutton being excessively fat and tallowy, and the butchers were buying it at a fraction under 4d. per lb. The worst carcass on exhibition, as well as the best, was that of a Southdown. The first offer that was got for it was 2½d. per lb., but by holding on the auctioneer got it up to 3½d. Altogether, Scottish exhibitors and breeders have every reason to be satisfied with the results of the show of 1895.

SCOTLAND YET.

Prof. E. E. Faville, Director, advises us that the short winter course at the Nova Scotia School of Horticulture, Wolfville, will open on Jan. 8th. A very broad, yet thorough, course is offered, and the tuition is free. Write the Director for particulars.

A New Year's Greeting from England.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I trust the New Year will bring good times to farmers on your side. Breeders here are more hopeful, as store stock are dear, and among Shorthorns there has been a keen demand for young bulls for the Argentine Republic. Beef and mutton are not, however, selling well, and feeders are not having a good time. Our country is remarkably free from disease, and this may be the cause of the discussions which are taking place, chiefly among members of the veterinary profession, with regard to tuberculosis, this disease and swine fever being about the only ones left remaining for their attention at the present time. The former is, however, often much exaggerated, breeders of pedigree stock being, as a rule, the last persons to allow such a disease to remain in their herds when once discovered, for the obvious reason that they would be the greatest sufferers. The large dairies of the great towns sometimes encourage its development, but inspection is rigid, and no great danger is to be apprehended from this source. The Smithfield show of fat stock is over; the Shorthorn heifer, Frederica, from Windsor, a dark red in color, that won at the breeding show of the R.A.S.C. Society at Darlington, took the championship. A good cross-bred or two were also much admired. The block test was held for the first time, and the carcasses sold by auction were an object lesson to many, showing that fat on the backs of animals several inches in thickness is of little or no value to butchers.

The winter being a mild one at present is also against the sale of this so-called Christmas meat. In these carcass competitions a Southdown sheep won first prize, and was sold for 7s. 4d. per stone of 8 lbs., the first prize beef making 7s. 6d.; these being more than ordinary market values, the first prizes putting, perhaps, 2s. per stone value on them.

The old cry of "Protection" for our industries is being raised again, especially with regard to foreign barley for malting purposes, it being argued that it would not be a great hardship to tax the brewing interest a little.

The Southern Counties of England (Kent, Sussex, etc.) have suffered very severely this year with the very low price of hops and the bad crop of barley; this latter is, however, a good crop in Yorkshire, the great variation in our districts and soils, as you know, making what is true of one country quite inapplicable to another. Perhaps the most distressed portion is Essex, where for the last fifteen years prices and times have been against clayey, corn-land farms, which have no grass of any feeding value besides what is artificially raised with much manual labor. Wishing Canadian friends a happy New Year, remain

Yours truly,

"W."

London, England.

Sheep Breeders Congratulated.

[Points from the annual address, at Guelph, of Mr. John Jackson, President of the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association.]

Mr. Jackson congratulated the members on the continued harmony and posterity of the Association. He was pleased to note the marked improvement in the flocks of the Ontario sheep breeders during recent years. In reviewing the flocks at the various large shows, he said there was one feature which would forcibly present itself to every careful observer. That is the marked improvement in the home-bred sheep, to encourage which had always been the aim of the Association. A few years ago, he said, it was very easy, after looking over the sheep exhibit at any of the shows, to point out every imported animal. But now there is not that contrast; even an expert judge would hardly like to risk his reputation by undertaking the task. Continuing, he said it was very gratifying to find that, notwithstanding the depression in nearly every line of agricultural production, the demand for first-class pure-bred registered sheep had been good, and that remunerative prices had been obtained. He spoke of the great possibilities of Canada in sheep raising, and said they had only to recall to mind their well-earned victories at the great World's Fair at Chicago to establish that fact, and only two weeks ago at the show held in Madison Square Gardens, New York City, held under the auspices of the Live Stock Association of America, the Canadian exhibit of sheep was decorated with honors, for out of \$1,000 offered in prizes Ontario won \$945. "What more can we ask?" he said; "and what has been said of that show is corroborated by the grand display of sheep at our winter exhibition."

Preserve the Advocate.

No doubt many ADVOCATE readers, on looking over the contents for 1895, published in December 16th issue, wished they had saved all the numbers of the year. Now is the time to enter upon a system that will avoid any such regret in the future. Simply set apart a portion of a shelf somewhere in the house, and when a new issue arrives, put the last one (which by that time will have been thoroughly read by all in the home) away on the shelf. The papers will thus be kept in good order, and, if desired, may be bound at the end of the year. We might add that we can furnish substantially bound volumes of all the issues for 1895 at \$2 per copy. Many of our readers have every copy of the ADVOCATE, from the inaugural issue, preserved, so highly is the paper prized. In no other way can so much valuable information be preserved at so small an outlay.

The Economical Use of Grain in Fattening Cattle.

SIR,—In answer to your request respecting the kind and quantity of grain I would recommend in the preparatory, second and finishing stages in the process of fattening cattle, I may say that any opinion I may express upon this question would be only an approximate as indicating what we have found to work well in practice upon a comparatively small scale. In the fattening of cattle I am not a believer in feeding such very heavy rations of grain as many farmers still persist in cramming into their animals. In this country, where we have our animals stabled for such a long time, I consider one of the greatest secrets of success in connection with a system of stock-keeping, with a view to either beefing or dairying, lies in our being able to get our winter fodders preserved in the very best possible condition. For instance, imagine a farmer curing his hay crop when it has become so ripe that the substance has nearly all left the stem; also leaving his grain crop until it may be drawn in directly after cutting, and then, with this quality of fodder as the bulky portion of his food ration, endeavor to fatten his animals for the May market. With such a quality of fodder, in which there must be a very small percentage of digestible food material, it does not surprise me that many consider that very large quantities of grain are required, and more particularly so when animals have previously been partially neglected through the want of a sufficiency of pasture grass, or other suitable fodder to keep them good and thrifty and gaining at least moderately during the previous summer. Practical experience is constantly teaching us that there is no single fodder upon which animals will gain and fatten so rapidly as upon the rich pasture of spring and early summer, more particularly when it has reached that stage of maturity which it usually attains from two to three weeks before the bulk of farmers begin haying operations. This practical lesson should also teach us that the nearer we can preserve our fodder to this condition the more digestible and valuable will its feeding qualities be. The analysis of good clover hay properly cured, confirmed by the practical results attained in its feeding, tells us that it is almost a perfect fodder in itself.

I merely throw out these points to show that it is quite practical, under favorable conditions, to fatten animals upon other fodders besides the concentrated grains which are so largely used in winter feeding. I do this not by any means to convey the idea that animals can be stall-fed in winter without grain, but to show that by exercising judicious care in the growth and preservation of our common bulky fodders, and availing ourselves of the valuable addition to these which is found in the great succulence and digestibility of the corn crop, we can thus be able to supply our animals with full and appropriate rations without having recourse to such large quantities of grain. With a mixture of about 15 lbs. of ensilage and 15 lbs. of wheat and oat straw, we are at present feeding our animals three or four pounds of grain—a mixture of peas and oats. Upon this allowance of grain they are doing well, and I consider it quite sufficient to carry them along till January.

For the next two months, with a mixture of clover hay, straw and ensilage, six pounds of grain, a mixture of peas, oats, and a little oil-cake, followed by certainly not more than eight pounds of the same mixture during the finishing period, should be quite sufficient to put the animals in prime condition for May shipment.

Huron Co., Ont.

THOS. McMILLAN.

"Blue-Grays"—A New Breed Suggested.

SIR,—We have been reading for some years, in your journal and others, about the great superiority of blue-gray cattle as producers of the very choicest beef, and the great demand for them. Would it not be in order to commence a distinct breed of them? We think if the Ontario Agricultural College were to undertake it they could do a good work for the country at large. Our idea would be to select the best white Shorthorn bull that could be secured, then secure three Galloway cows of three different families, then I would secure three white Shorthorn cows of the same number of distinct Shorthorn families, and mate them with the best Galloway bull that could be procured; then we would mate their produce one with the other. We think a breed could be formed of them in this way without breeding in and in; and if, as is claimed, they are so much superior as beef producers, and the beef being superior to any other breed now in existence, they would very soon commend themselves to the breeders and feeders of this country. Not only that, but all of them being without horns would be an advantage, and it would give the students of the College an ocular demonstration of how to form a breed, in which we have no doubt they would take a deep interest. As Canada has no breed of farm stock that it can claim as its own founding, they could be called Canada's Polls, and if they turn out to be as good as we suppose, they would soon be known the world over by that name, and be very much sought after by breeders and feeders. Some may say, we have enough breeds already! The answer to this is, we never have had enough of the best, and our opinion is that we shall never have too many.

York Co., Ont.

"ONLOOKER."