

Our Scottish Letter.

The principal events here recently have been the spring bull sales and draft horse shows in Scotland and England. The leading event in Scotland was the show of Clydesdale stallions at Glasgow on the 6th of February, as reported in our last letter, appearing in the issue of March 1st. On account of about seventy of the best of the Clydesdale stallions having been engaged between the date of the Highland Society Show at Stirling, in July, and the Glasgow Spring Show, there were not nearly so many horses on exhibition as was the case in the old days. The best thing that can be said in favor of the new system, is that it obviates the necessity of feeding up so many horses as used to be the case, and breeders thus get the travelling stallions in hard condition and fit for their work. It is, however, rather hard on the Glasgow Agricultural Society, which has for so long and so successfully conducted this show, that it should be so curtailed, the reduced entries meaning, of course, a big reduction in revenue to the Society. The show, up to about the year 1890, was more a horse-hiring fair than a show, and it had continued so for about twenty years. Originally started to allow the Glasgow Agricultural Society to make a good selection of a district premium horse, it blossomed into a general hiring fair about 1870, when an arrangement was come to whereby all the smaller shows throughout the country were stopped, and every one sent a deputation to Glasgow. The only reservation made by the Glasgow Society was that it should have the first "pick," and any horse hired by another society, before the judging, was hired with that reservation in favor of Glasgow. The advent of the Studbook, which put everyone in possession of a directory to Clydesdale stallions, gradually altered all this, and the great demand for horses during the eighties made remote districts as keen as Glasgow to have the best. Deputations from these districts then began to be sent all round, and the competition developed so rapidly that now there is as much hiring done at the Highland Society in July as used to be done at the Glasgow Stallion Show in February.

In spite of these many absentees, we had a very good show on 6th Feb. Mr. Pollock's great horse, Hiawatha 10067, again proved invincible, winning the Cawdor Cup for the third time—a very notable event, and all the more remarkable as amongst his competitors on this occasion were his own sons, Marcellus 11110 and Labori 10791, the former first in the three-year-old open class, and the latter second to him, as well as winner of the Glasgow district premium. Both are gay horses like their sire, but Marcellus has many points which suggest that he may finish a better horse than either. He is a wonderfully well-balanced horse, and has more width and thickness than the old horse had at the age. Hiawatha has arrived at maturity very slowly, and his quality is clearly seen on this account. The formation of his hind legs has been characterized as a masterpiece, and the language is not too strong; it is perhaps the best formation of hind limbs seen in any horse for many a day. He has an extraordinary crest and very grand shoulder, but there are horses which stand better on their fore legs, and his action is nothing out of the common. Another very nice, level Clydesdale horse is Casabianca 10523, winner of the Glasgow district senior premium, and second to Hiawatha in his class. This is a very true short-legged Clydesdale, got by the celebrated Baron's Pride 9122, and winner of first prize and championship in 1899, when first exhibited. As a level, well-balanced Clydesdale stallion, Casabianca is not easily beaten. Mr. James Kilpatrick was first in the two-year-old class with the fine colt, Lord Dundonald 11094, which gained first at all the leading shows last year but one. He is a thick, well-coupled horse, and was got by a good big horse named Royal Carrick, in some respects not unlike Hiawatha. He was the Glasgow senior premium horse in 1900; another son of Hiawatha, named Mercutio, being the junior.

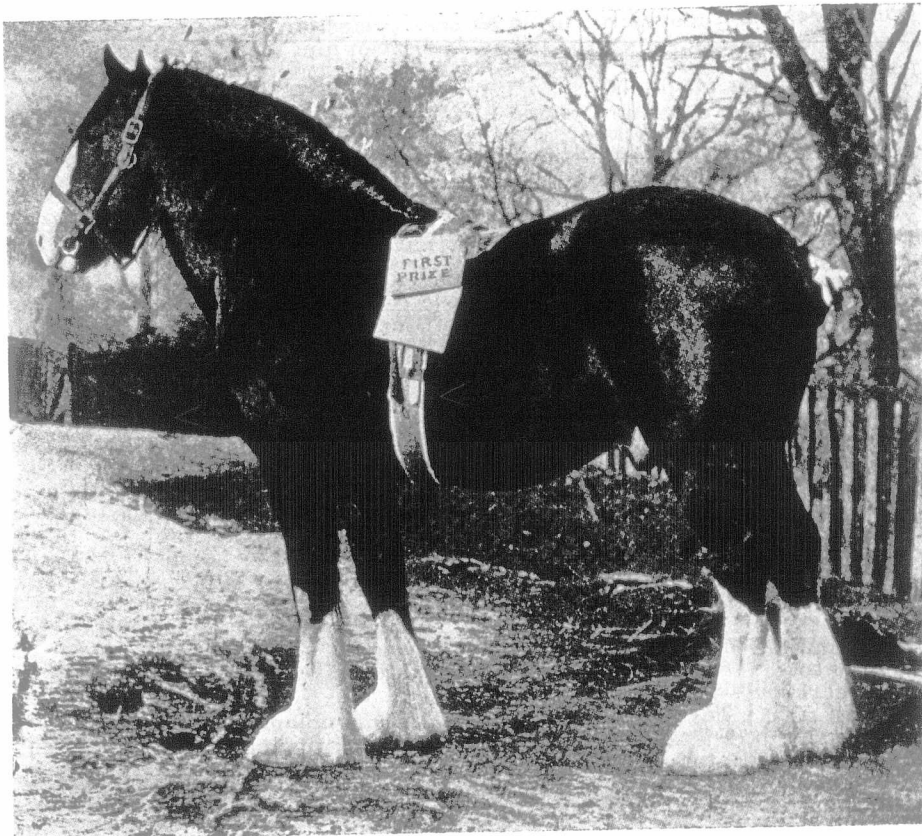
THE ANGUS BULL SALES.

The sales of young bulls this spring were lively events. The leading prices have been made by herds which have long occupied premier places in the respective breeds. His Majesty the King is going to carry on the Aberdeen-Angus herd owned by the Queen at Abergeldie Mains, Ballater, and his commissioner, Mr. Forbes, at Perth, gave the highest price, 220 gns., for a bull of the breed this season. He is named Elandslaagte, and was bred by Sir George Macpherson Grant, Bart., in his famous Ballindalloch herd. He is a strongly inbred Erica, and if the sale demonstrated anything, it was the supremacy of this tribe over all others in the black polled breed. Sir George got an average of £118 1s. for seven young bulls on this occasion: Mr. McLaren, Auchnaguite, Ballinbrig, a breeder practically unknown until last year, got an average of £82 19s. for five; Lord Strathmore got £62 17s. 8d. for nine; and Mr. Wm. Whyte, Spott, £42 12s. 7d. for ten. These

were the best averages amongst the Aberdeen-Angus breeders, and the reader will agree that they ought to please the most exacting. Many high prices were got for individual bulls, such as 170 gns. secured by Mr. Whyte for his first-prize winner, Gipsy Major; 155 gns. secured by Mr. McLaren for Meramere, which was placed third; 140 gns. to Ballindalloch for Earl Elfin; 150 gns. to the Earl of Strathmore for Mondamon, also placed third in another class; 140 gns. by Mr. McLaren for Ellamere; and several went at 100 gns. or thereabouts. An interesting feature of this sale was the fact that the 220-gs. bull which went to the King was not placed by the judges, the price being given as much for blood as for individual merit. Of course, judges cannot consider blood when placing animals in a showing. All the animals referred to were calved after 1st December, 1899, so that only a limited number of them were over one year old.

THE SHORTHORN BULL SALES.

The highest price at these sales has been paid by Mr. Wm. Duthie, Collynie, Tarves, the world-renowned breeder of Shorthorns, for the young bull, Alastair, bred by Lord Lovat, at Beaufort Castle, Beaulieu. His price was 400 gns., or £420, the best price ever made in Scotland at a spring bull sale. The youngster was bought at the Inverness sale. He is a very fashionable Shorthorn, full of Scotch blood, and got by a sire named Royal Star, whose stock promise very well indeed. Another of them was first at Perth this week, and made a fair price, well up to the £100, but he is not nearly as good a bull as Mr. Duthie's purchase. The Lovat herd is a robust, healthy combination, reared on high land, and not greatly pampered. The animals bred in it have long enjoyed a first-class reputation, and two of the young bulls from the herd at Perth sold for 100 gns. Although the Shorthorns have thus made the high-



HIAWATHA (10067).

Champion Clydesdale stallion, Glasgow Show, 1901. Bay. Rising nine years old. Height, 17.1 hands. Weight, 2,125 pounds.

est price at the season's sales, the best averages have been made by the Aberdeen-Angus herds. Shorthorns are not nearly so numerous as the others, and the autumn sales at Collynie, Uppermill, Newton, and other famous centers in the north, rather discount the offering of bulls of this breed in spring. However, this is not a serious drawback, and the demand from Ireland has this season been a great boon and help to the sales.

Perth, Aberdeen and Inverness are the great centers for these northern breeds. Oban is the headquarters of the Highland breed, and a capital sale of bulls was held there last month. Of course, the hardy sons of the mountains take longer time to mature than the more modern breeds, and their numbers are not nearly so large. The Highland bulls are brought out very much better than used to be the case, and are distributed from one center. The highest price realized at Oban was £75, paid for a two-year-old bull named Schichallion, from the Marquis of Breadalban's fold at Taymouth Castle. He was purchased by Mr. Arch'd Turner, Kelchamaig, Kintyre, one of the oldest and best-known breeders, and his match for size and fleshiness is not easily found in the breed. Hair, horn and face are important points in the Highlander. His hair is a great protection to him in the inclement regions where his lot is cast, and he has some difficulty in keeping himself thriving amidst surroundings not too congenial. The Galloway pedigree bull sale holds at Castle Douglas, and the Ayrshire pedigree bull sale at Ayr and Lanark. But these events are not due for about a month. "SCOTLAND YET."

Parties requiring breeding stock in the line of horses, cattle, sheep, swine, or poultry, will do well to look carefully through the advertising columns in this issue, and to write for what they want.

London Shire Horse Show.

The 22nd annual show took place February 26th and three following days, at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, London. The aggregate entry was 667, 335 being stallions, 301 mares, and 31 geldings. The show was the largest ever held by the Society, and the general average of merit and quality was never so high, nor do we remember in any previous year so very few disqualifications for unsoundness being made; in fact, in no portion of its most valuable work has this Society been more successful than in the eradication of unsoundness.

At this show the three judges all acted together in the first selection, when each class is paraded entire, from which there can be selected not more than twenty-five, these being sent out to be examined by the veterinary surgeons, and those passed as sound by them are again placed before the judges to award the prizes, two judges acting, the third man being referee, if necessary.

In the class for stallions foaled in 1900, there were no less than forty-six entries, a typical lot of well-bred youngsters, the choice for premier place being a grand colt owned by Mr. A. Henderson, M. P., who, a year ago, won in the corresponding class a similar honor, and sold the colt to Sir J. B. Maple, Bart., at last year's show, for \$7,500. Next to him came one of rare quality, exhibited by Capt. W. H. O. Duncombe.

There were eighty-six entries in the class for two-year-old stallions, and a truly grand lot they were. Every one of the twenty-five selected for veterinary inspection were returned to compete for the nine money prizes and five breeders' prizes. Messrs. J. & M. Walwyn here took the first place with Bearwardcote Blaze, a grand young colt, hardly masculine enough in appearance, and probably a wee bit wanting in substance, but, for all that, a grand young horse, with particularly fine quality of bone and hair. To this colt went also the champion cup for best young stallion under four years, the champion cup for best stallion in the yard, and the Society's gold challenge cup with its gold medal. His nearest competitor in the class was W. G. Wainwright's Royal Bendigo, a colt with a promising future.

Eighty-eight entries were made in the class for three-year-old stallions, and again all the twenty-five selected ones came back. Desford Combination took with ease the premier place in what was probably the strongest class in the show, and that his owners, Messrs. Thompson, did not secure with him the champion cup in the young stallion classes is a matter of regret, for his high merit, fine masculine type and character, together with great weight and substance, ought, in the opinion of many, to have carried him to the top. Lord Llangattow, with Hendre Champion, came in for second honors. Eight others were also awarded cash prizes, and five additional breeders' prizes went to the breeders of the first five winners.

Thirty-five four-year-old stallions were entered, a first-class lot, no less than eighteen being noticed by the judges, seven of which took cash prizes, the leading one being Moor's Regent, by that noted horse, Regent II., a wide, deep-bodied horse, on excellent feet and legs, from Mr. E. Green's stud; Messrs. J. Forshaw & Sons being second in this class with Black Topsman, a very handsome stallion, whose dash and go made him a favorite with many.

Stallions under 16.2 hands, between five and ten years old, came out to the number of twenty-four, and in this and the two succeeding classes it was a real pleasure to see how fresh and sound so many matured stallions were whose service in the stud had been so large and successful. Capstone Harold, a typical son of that very noted horse, Harold 3703, took first place in this strong class, and did great credit to his owners, Messrs. J. Forshaw & Sons. Seven others were decorated with award cards of different value.

Stallions over 16.2 hands high, and with the same limitation as to age as in the preceding class, numbered thirty-six, fourteen of which secured notice from the judges, seven with money awards, the premier winner of which was Messrs. Forshaw & Sons' Stroxtan Tom, who, besides being first in his class, secured the champion cup for the older stallions and ran the winner of the challenge cup and gold medal a very tight race for the blue ribbon of the meeting, but he had to be content with the r. n. for this honor, his nearest competitor being Mr. J. Rowell's Bury Premier Duke, who won the second-class prize, being made r. n. for the champion cup.

Twelve out of the twenty entries in what we call the veteran class, namely, stallions over ten years, were duly noticed by the judges, four with money awards and six with barren honors, the president of the year, Lord Middleton, taking the first place with Menestrel.

SALE REPORT.

The Shire Horse Society's Show was concluded, as usual, by the sale of a large number of those entered in the exhibition classes, a summary of