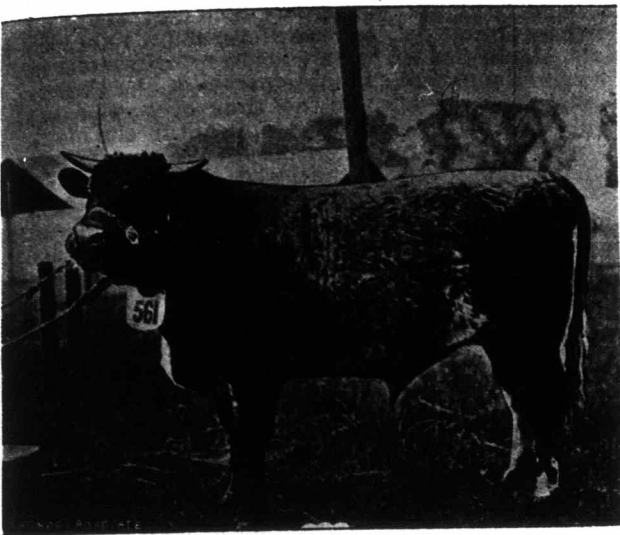


before the Manchester Royal, when Commander-in-Chief, with others, was holding a rehearsal just before starting. It was the custom at Warlaby to have a private view, and I was honored with an invite. The discussion arose as to merits of the Shorthorns of early days, and then with the opinion that the Duke held his own with any since produced, but that Lady Fragrant had never been equalled. As, however, Mr. Linton judges from pictures, and is evidently satisfied with those of Molly Millicent and Lord Irwin, as illustrated in the ADVOCATE, I would ask your readers also to study pictures. But what fools we have all been to take our cattle to the shows, not only at great expense to the exhibitor, but with risk to the ani-



SHORTHORN BULL, BAPTON EMPEROR.

PROPERTY J. DEANE WILLIS, BAPTON MANOR, CODFORD, WILTS.  
First at Exeter and Windsor Shows. Male champion  
at the Royal Show, Maidstone, 1899.

mal, when we could have them judged at home by just mailing the pictures to a judge. I commend this to H. J. Hill's notice. In Thornton's Circular, Vol. VI., written in 1880, the history of the breed closes with a sentence regarding Booth's Bracelet, which reads as follows: "No record of her measurement exists. Many old breeders, however, still maintain that as Duke of Northumberland 1940 was one of the finest bulls, so Bracelet was the finest cow of her recollection."

I cannot conceive where Mr. Linton gets his "thousands of peers" from, seeing he has been in Canada the last forty years. He must speak of those he has seen in Canada. He would certainly not refer to those he has not seen, but perhaps the artists have improved.

Again Mr. Linton writes: "We knew Thos. Bates, and we knew his cattle in his lifetime." To meet a man is one thing, to know him is another. He may in his youth have thought he knew Mr. Bates, but as the latter died at the good old age of 75 in 1849, it cannot be conceived that a boy of 8 or 10 could have been very intimate with the Kirklevington breeder, or at that age be competent to form a very correct idea of the herd. English boys, as a rule, in those days were not the precocious youths of to-day. Again Mr. Linton writes: "Mr. Bates never won a prize after the Booths stepped into the arena." What rot! I am not advocating Bates cattle, nor do I find it necessary to defend them. This silly idea of Bates or Booth has been dropped for years, and only the old fossils harp upon those strings. It is now Shorthorns versus Herefords and Angus. Those are things in the flesh, not the ghosts of dead and defunct dynasties. As a matter of history, what are the facts as regards Mr. Linton's last assertion? At the Yorkshire Show held at Northallerton in 1840, Mr. Bates won first for best cow, Mr. J. Booth second. At the Royal, same year, Mr. Bates won for best cow. In 1841, at the Yorkshire at Hull, Mr. Bates won two firsts for bulls, first and second for three-year-old cows, and Mr. J. Booth won with Bracelet for best cow of any age. See Bell, page 258. Mr. Bates had always been on most friendly terms with Mr. John Booth, who frequently visited at Kirklevington, and was always a guest at Yarm Fair in October. Mr. Booth took especial delight in bantering Mr. Bates about Shorthorns and his declining to exhibit at the Royal, and joked that he dare not show a cow, and if he would he (Mr. Booth) had a rod in pickle for them. This referred to Mr. Booth's cow Necklace. It required no ordinary courage to enter the list with such a heroine as Necklace. To meet this cow, supposed to be the best the Booth herd had ever produced, Mr. Bates had his broken-legged cow, Duchess 34, that had never been exhibited. She had no training whatever, and walked by road about 40 miles to York, with her son, the Duke of Northumberland. There were fifteen competitors. Duchess 34 won, Booth's Necklace 2nd, and a cow of J. Mason Hopper's third. Comment is unnecessary. In conclusion, Mr. Linton dismisses my effort with this curt statement, "that with very few exceptions it is a repetition of the Royal Agricultural Show." I wish to say that is all that was intended, and I am glad I have not been accused of drawing altogether upon my imagination. Mr. Linton must have access to the full lists of Royal winners. I have not, and I would suggest that he prepare a second honor roll of the two-year-old bulls and heifers. I have such partially written out, but do

not want to monopolize the idea. Anything to help the breed, with all sectionalism and narrow-minded blood-lines eliminated, will receive my hearty support. And, as I wrote, any corrections in my list will be heartily recognized and acknowledged, but no man can try and wring incorrect statements over my signature without a kick.

RICHARD GIBSON.

#### Sheep Notes on Royal Show at Maidstone.

This year's exhibit of sheep, taken as a whole, was one of first-rate merit, many of the different breeds—notably the Southdowns, Shropshires, Lincolns, and Hampshires—being in great force, whilst the Oxford Downs and the Suffolks made much larger and better entries than in most previous years. The Kent or Romney Marsh sheep—the local breed—were in great strength, and were of first-class merit. The Devon long-wool came out in very creditable numbers, with typical quality.

The entries for the present year were 633, as against 624 last year; consequently the sheep were somewhat in excess of their usual quota.

As mere details are of but little account with your readers, the names of the principal winning owners being of more importance, these are given in full detail, and critical remarks are limited to some few more important sheep. We may here remark that, unless otherwise stated, the classification for each breed was two-shear ram, yearling ram, three yearling ewes, three ram lambs, and three ewe lambs.

**Leicesters**, with five classes, in which there was not a large entry (numbering thirty), was taken as one, a very good lot, with high merit and typical quality, more particularly the entries of Messrs. G. Harrison and E. F. Jordan, who between them secured the leading awards, Mr. G. Harrison's yearling ram being one of the best specimens we have seen for some years. This exhibitor was first for yearling rams, yearling ewes, ram and ewe lambs; Mr. E. F. Jordan being first with the old rams; Mr. F. W. D. Watkinson and Mr. J. J. Simpson coming in for barren honors. Some enquiry for this breed was found from Canada (Mr. A. W. Smith, of Maple Lodge, being present), the States, and France.

**Cotswolds**.—A capital lot in five classes, Mr. W. Houlton, a fresh candidate at the Royal Show for its premiums, sending nine very excellent specimens, notably his two grand old rams, which were first and second, and a yearling ram, who came in third. Mr. W. Thomas, also a fresh exhibitor, had nine first-class lambs present, winning first for ram lambs and second for ewe lambs; but Messrs. Garne, whose grand old Aldsworth flock, with its true type and uniform character, is so well known that we need say no more but to record the fact that in the yearling rams and ewes and ram lambs their grand specimens were easily first; Mr. R. Swanwick being also placed in the honor list. Messrs. Robert Miller and Hamner, from your country, between them secured most of these grand sheep, which will be found, on arrival, of grand quality and typical character.

**Lincolns** came next, making a grand entry of great merit and quality. They had six classes, the extreme being for pens of five yearling rams. In old rams, Messrs. S. E. Dean & Son went first with a grand ram, who came out champion of the breed. This most excellent and typical sheep was bred by Mr. J. E. Carswell, whose advertisement regularly appears in your paper. A second one from Mr. J. E. Carswell's flock was also commended; hence it speaks well for the merit and quality of Laughlin flock to get two entries so well up in this strong class, wherein Messrs. Wright came second and Mr. Henry Dudding third; a grand lot of yearling rams from Mr. Tom Carswell's flock taking the lead, its two entries, which were of great merit, being first and second, with Messrs. Wright's third and Mr. H. Dudding's fourth. Pairs of five yearling rams were equally strong, and Mr. Tom Carswell again led the way with a very typical pen, Mr. Henry Dudding's grand lot being second, remarkable for their even fleeces of typical wool; Messrs. Wright's pen third; and one of Mr. J. E. Carswell's, which showed great uniformity of type and typical quality, came in for a well-deserved commendation. In ram lambs and yearling ewes, Mr. H. Dudding's flock took a position of strong precedence, being first in the former class and first and second in the latter class, with most typical and valuable pens. Messrs. Wright, who were first for ewe lambs and second for ram lambs, had also some very excellent specimens present. Mr. Patrick, from Canada, was present, and will be making a very valuable consignment of this breed in the course of a few days.

**Oxford Downs** made, as we have stated before, a capital entry, and we think that the merit of the yearling rams has rarely been exceeded. Mr. J. T. Hobbs was first, both for old rams and yearling rams, the former being secured for the States. Mr. A. Brassey was second for yearling ram, which was purchased by Mr. J. Treadwell, who also secured the third prize sheep from Mr. W. A. Treweeke, whose great success this year is one of the features of the present season in the Oxford Down breed. Mr. H. W. Stilgoe's grand pen of ewe lambs led the way, they being also secured for the States; Mr. J. C. Eady being first and second for yearling ewes, for which no end of enquiries were made and attempts to purchase for both Canada and the States, but the owner's value and that of the hoping purchasers did not meet, hence they remained at home. A pair of grand ewes from

Mr. W. A. Treweeke's grand pen go to Mr. R. Miller; Mr. Reading being to the fore in ram lambs.

**Shropshires** were a grand lot of even quality, many of which were sold for the States and Canada, including the first, second and third pens of ewes from Messrs. P. L. Mills, M. Barrs, and R. P. Cooper—a grand lot of most excellent ewes. Mr. D. Buttar came to the fore for old rams, and Mrs. M. Barrs second, a similar place to that which she occupied in yearling rams; Mr. A. E. Mansell being first in this great class, as well as for ewe lambs, which pen is going to G. Allen, of Allerton, Ill., where they will take a great lot of beating, for they are a pen of exceptional merit—even in size and of great quality and character. Mrs. M. Barrs won for ram lambs—a grand and typical pen; and amongst the other winners were Mr. A. Bradburn (third and fourth yearling rams), T. S. Minton, W. F. Inge, A. Tanner, D. Gibson, G. L. Foster-Harter, etc. Messrs. G. Allen, R. Miller, Hamner, and several others were buying from your side.

**Southdowns** made a grand exhibit, the Duke of Richmond being first and champion with his old ram, Mr. W. Toop being second, and Mr. C. R. W. Adeane third and R. N., this latter breeder being also successful for yearling rams and ram lambs, being second in each class, nine of which were sold for export to Mr. Jackson, Canada, and others to France. The Pagham Harbor Co., whose flock is so well and widely known, made a most successful exhibit, being first for flock ewes—an extra class for this breed—and the same for ram and ewe lambs, a large selection from this flock being sold for the States, and others for Canada and the home market. Mr. W. Toop, who was second for ewe lambs (two of which, we understand, will come to Canada—a grand pair), had also a good demand. Earl Bathurst was first for yearling ewes, executors of J. J. Coleman second, and Earl Cadogan third; whilst several others were also in the award list, notably Mr. E. Ellis, A. Heasman, and T. Miles.

**Hampshire Downs** made a grand entry, old rams and yearling ewes being led by Mr. R. W. Hudson's grand pens, the latter of which Mr. W. W. Chapman sold for export to the States and Canada, Mr. R. Miller purchasing; Mr. James Flower, whose flock has the highest reputation, securing premier awards for yearling rams, ram lambs, and second for ewe lambs, with entries of the highest merit and type. Mr. T. F. Buxton's entries, notably the pen of ewe lambs, which were first in their class, were of grand merit and splendid type. The Earl Carnarvon, Mr. H. C. Stephens (both of whom had several sold for the States and Canada), L. H. Baxendale, Lord Rothschild, etc., were also prominent in the award list. Messrs. Hamner, Miller, Milton, and Springer were buying for your side of the Herring Pond.

**Suffolks**, a grand breed of mutton sheep, made a strong entry, much improved on previous years. Lord Ellesmere, Mr. H. E. Smith, H. L. B. McCalmont, M. P., A. Paisley, etc., were principal winners in this section, for which we were unable to find any amount of demand, except for home consumption, and for this there was a big demand at tiptop rates.

**Romney Marsh**, a most valuable breed for grazing purposes, and also where a hardy sheep, indifferent to cold and exposure, is desired, made a very full entry of good quality, Mr. W. Miller's grand flock taking a very prominent place, being first and champion for old rams, yearling rams, and ewe lambs, whilst Mr. J. S. S. Godwin, C. File, Henry Ridgen (who came in for the female championship), F. Nearne, and A. Amos were the leading winners. Several enquiries for the Argentine and France and Australasia were made.

**Border Leicesters** had only three classes; i. e., old rams, yearling rams, and ewes. In these, however, there was a grand, typical entry, Messrs. J. Twentyman, J. E. Nicholson, Right Hon. A. J.



SOUTHDOWN RAM.

BRED AND EXHIBITED BY THE DUKE OF RICHMOND AND GORDON, R. G. GOODWOOD.  
Male champion at the Royal Show, Maidstone, 1899.

Balfour, and Thos. Winter being the more successful.

**Wensleydales** made a highly meritorious entry of rare merit and type in two classes, one for males and one for females. This is a grand breed of sheep where mutton and fine, long wool are the objects aimed at. They made a thoroughly good entry, when the distance they had to come is considered. Mr. J. H. Calvert, executors of T. Willis, J. Heugh, and J. Rhodes were principal exhibitors.

**Devon Long-wools**, also with two classes, were fully typical of this long-wool breed, whose pro-