

Mr. Leonard Pilkington's steer from Cavens, bred by Sir Robert Jardine, Bart., and although not three years old, weighing 14 cwt. 2 qr. 26 lbs., or 1,620 lbs. His sire was the famous Liberator of Balig. The heaviest animal but one in the hall was Sir John Swinburne's great ox, which at 3 years and 7 months weighed 2,251 lbs. He won first prize in his class, and there was some speculation as to his purity. West Highlanders never showed to such advantage as on the present occasion. The Earl of Cawdor gained first prize for steers and also the Breed Championship with Highland Master, a red ox 3½ years old and weighing 1,988 lbs. His Lordship also won first and second prizes for heifers, and the remaining specimens of the mountain breed shown were worthy of Auld Scotland. No cattle sell more quickly, and nearly all the Highlanders found customers. Cross-bred cattle were a wonderful display, and the best came from breeders in the north of Scotland. The champion of the section at both shows was Mr. Robert Copland's Hereford-Aberdeen-Angus cross heifer, Queen of Spades, and the reserve at London, a splendid steer named Little Model, three-parts-bred Shorthorn, and weighing at less than three years old, 17 cwt. 12 lbs., or 1,916 lbs. This steer also stood reserve to Her Majesty's roan ox, Masterpiece, for the championship as the best male animal in the hall. A large number of the best cross-bred cattle, including Little Model and his rival in his own class, the Inverness champion, Bluebeard, which were bred by Mr. John Ross, Meikle Tarrel, Fearn, were reared in Eastern Ross, one of the best farming districts in all Scotland. Looking back over all that has come and gone at these big shows, the verdict is—SCOTLAND YET.

Chatty Stock Letter from the States.

(FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.)

The receipts for 1894 at Chicago were, in round numbers, close to 3,000,000 cattle, 7,500,000 hogs, and 3,000,000 sheep, against 3,133,406 cattle, 6,057,278 hogs, and 3,031,174 sheep the year previous. The decrease in cattle was entirely in Texas and Indian stock, which fell off about 270,000 head. The Northwestern range cattle, at about 400,000 head for the season, were the largest on record.

The average weight of live stock at Chicago the past year was 1,087 lbs. for cattle, showing a gain of about thirty pounds, while hogs averaged about twelve pounds lighter and sheep about one pound per head heavier. The quality of the cattle was not as much better as the increase in average weight would indicate, but was in fact poorer than the year before, the gain in average weight being due to the fact that there were fewer Texas cattle, which, of course, run light in weight.

The decrease in the hog weight was all in the last half of the year, when the market was kept flooded with pigs that were forced in by the drouth. During the last six months the average weight dropped about twenty-eight pounds from the corresponding time a year ago.

Top prices during the year were as follows:—Cattle, September, \$6.40; December, \$6.60; hogs, \$6.75 in September; sheep, April, \$5.10.

The following table shows the average prices for different kinds of stock each month of the year, with a comparative general average:—

MONTHS.	Beef Steers.	Fat Cows.	Cann'd Cows.	Hogs.	Sheep.	Lambs.
January.....	\$4 10	\$3 45	\$1 75	\$5 30	\$2 95	\$4 00
February.....	3 85	3 00	1 60	5 15	3 05	3 75
March.....	3 75	3 10	1 60	4 70	3 30	4 00
April.....	4 05	3 25	1 75	5 00	3 65	4 50
May.....	4 00	3 50	1 90	4 90	3 20	4 20
June.....	4 15	3 50	1 75	4 75	2 90	3 70
July.....	4 00	3 50	1 80	5 25	2 60	3 45
August.....	4 30	3 20	1 65	5 40	2 20	2 80
September.....	4 80	3 25	1 75	5 75	2 40	3 00
October.....	4 65	3 20	1 65	5 05	2 25	3 05
November.....	4 55	3 10	1 55	4 40	2 35	3 05
December.....	4 50	3 10	1 60	4 30	2 50	3 20
Average, 1894.....	\$4 20	\$3 25	\$1 70	\$5 05	\$2 80	\$3 55
1893.....	4 15	3 30	2 10	6 09	3 95	

Prices for Western range cattle ranged as follows:—July, \$3.00 to \$3.95; August, \$2.80 to \$5.00; Sept., \$2.80 to \$4.85; Oct., \$2.60 to \$4.90; Nov., \$2.65 to \$4.90; Dec., \$2.75 to \$3.00.

There were twelve days during the year when sheep receipts were more than 20,000, the heaviest being October 1, when 31,334 arrived. Largest receipts of stock on record for one day at Chicago:—32,677 cattle, 66,597 hogs, and sheep as above stated. Shorthorns and Aberdeen-Angus cattle sold at the top prices during the year, the latter leading.

Closing prices, compared with a year ago, were as follows:—

	1894.	1893.
Beef cattle.....	\$3 00 to \$5 60	\$3 25 to \$6 00
Cows.....	1 00 to 3 40	1 50 to 3 50
Heavy hogs.....	3 90 to 4 60	4 95 to 5 35
Light hogs.....	3 75 to 4 20	5 00 to 5 35
Sheep.....	1 50 to 3 50	2 00 to 4 75
Lambs.....	2 00 to 3 75	3 50 to 5 00

The general live stock business of the year was more satisfactory than might have been expected in face of general trade depression.

Nitrogen is the most expensive manurial element we have to obtain. Mr. T. B. Terry stated before the Ontario Experimental Union, in a talk on clover culture, that over every acre of land is \$90,000.00 worth of that valuable gas element. The question is, How can we get hold of it in agriculture? The answer is, Grow clover.

Our Buffalo Stock Letter.

BY EIRICK BROS.

The general condition of the live stock trade in the States is fairly good, excepting possibly on sheep and lambs, which has been very unsatisfactory both to feeders, shippers, and also to buyers on the markets. Cattle have been doing better, and feeders generally are fairly well pleased with results. Prices in the main have been satisfactory all along on everything excepting the export grades, which have not been selling quite as well, compared with butcher stuff or cattle weighing 1,000 to 1,200 pounds. The export business has not been very satisfactory to country shippers of this sort to this market, and we believe in all the Western markets, as a rule, they have not made them any money. The outlook for the future, or for next spring, is considered rather favorable by the trade. There are not as many cattle feeding this year as last, which of course has had a tendency to stimulate prices. A good many are contracted at higher values, to come after the holidays, but as far as we are concerned, we hardly believe they will make any money. We call present prices on cattle high.

In the hog market prices have fluctuated all the way from 10 to 25 cents per hundred within the past month. Early in the season the crop was generally thought to be a small one, which would eventually result in higher prices. Receipts have continued very liberal all over the country, and as yet there seems to be no let-up. Packers who looked for a decrease in offerings are getting weak-kneed, and unless we soon have a let-up, we are likely to have still lower prices. The large operators that thought in the early part of the season the hog crop would be very light are now operating slowly, and a good many have changed their views. We can see nothing encouraging in the situation for the near future. We certainly cannot have higher prices until receipts decrease and the weather gets colder. The warm spell prevailing all over the States has been an unfavorable factor in the market. As yet, there has been no evidence of scarcity in any section we know of.

The sheep and lamb trade has shown considerable improvement, and the market generally is not much better than it was several months ago. Canadian lambs have been marketed liberally at times, and prices within the last week have held up remarkably well, with choice to prime grades selling at \$4.25 to \$4.50. This advance is no doubt due to a large decrease in the offerings of native stuff, and inasmuch as it looks as if the surplus crop had been marketed, the outlook is much more favorable than it has been any time in the past six months. We don't mean to say there is any scarcity, or that there is going to be a boom in values; on the contrary, we think there is enough left in the country to satisfy the demand in such a way that the markets will be active and strong. We expect to have some advance in prices, though we would advise everybody to be cautious. We hear of lambs being contracted at from \$5.00 to \$5.50, to go in April, and of good sheep at \$4.50. We will have to have a good liberal advance to make any money at these figures, and those who risk it, we believe, are taking risks.

The Provincial Fat Stock Show.

The annual Fat Stock Show held at Guelph on Dec. 11th to 13th, under the joint management of the Agriculture and Arts Association, the Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations, and the Guelph Fat Stock Club, was, as a show, an unqualified success, and a good evidence of what well-directed organization may accomplish. The magnificent display of sheep and swine at this show has but confirmed our opinion that in order to bring out the best results in an exhibition of live stock, the show must be directed largely by practical breeders and feeders, who know from actual experience what is needed to draw out the best efforts of the men who make the show. The organization of the Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations has marked a new era in the management of live stock shows in this country. In order to make men feel a real, live interest in a society, or a show, it is necessary to get them to realize that it is theirs, and that its success depends upon their effort and energy. It is true that in this, as in many other enterprises, "money makes the mare go," and the comparatively liberal grants given by the Provincial Government, which enables the Associations to offer liberal premiums, has, no doubt, had much to do in bringing out such keen competition, but some such stimulus is necessary to induce farmers and feeders to incur the labor and expense of preparing for such an exhibition of their products, and the Government of an agricultural province does wisely and well to give liberal encouragement to such efforts to improve the products of the country.

What is needed now, in order to the greater success of our live stock shows, is a vigorous Cattle Breeders' Association, well officered and well managed, to look after the interests of that department, and then we may expect to see a larger and better display of beef cattle; and, also, what is perfectly reasonable in a Province now so largely interested in dairying, an exhibition of dairy cattle and dairy products, either in connection with the Fat Stock Show, or at a different season of the year, if preferable.

The prize list of the fat stock show, as it has been arranged, is, we are bound to say, not an ideal one

for the purposes of such a show. The main object should be to encourage the preparation of animals intended directly for the butcher's block, and not an exhibition of breeding stock, which, in the sheep and swine classes, it largely is. It was well, perhaps, in starting such a show, to include breeding stock for awhile, in order to bring out a larger exhibition; but we submit that this feature of the show should be gradually eliminated, and that we should get down to the solid basis of a real fat stock show, by offering larger and perhaps more numerous prizes for such animals as are intended directly for slaughter. In order to keep up our reputation in the export trade in cattle, we need to send out more high-class steers, and our farmers ought to be encouraged to make steers of a larger proportion of the bull calves that are born. It is one of the curses of our sheep and lamb export trade that our farmers neglect to castrate and dock their ram lambs. In order, then, to encourage attention to these matters, let liberal prizes be given for steers, wethers and barrows, and let these be the leading features of the show.

Another improvement which we claim should be made as soon as practicable, is a fuller classification of the sheep and swine. There should be a full list of prizes for each breed, to bring out a strong representation, and competition between the breeds should be limited to sweepstakes. It is an awkward position for a judge to be called upon, in classes which include breeding stock of different breeds, to decide which is the best. There are few men who are not predisposed in favor of some one breed, and they will naturally give at least the benefit of a doubt, if not a little more, to the breed they are interested in. Even if the prizes have to be a little lower, we submit that it would be better to give a full list for each breed, and let the public judge of the comparative merits of the breeds.

THE CATTLE.

We purpose to refer to what strike us as the outstanding features of the show, and to offer such suggestions as we think may tend to improvement in future management. The display of cattle at Guelph, this year, while it was a marked improvement on the last two years, and included some really meritorious animals, was not by any means what we ought to have, or what we can have, if our breeders and feeders take hold of the matter in real earnest. This is all that is needed to make ours the greatest Fat Stock Show in America. An entry of some sixty head of cattle, all told, even if they were all strictly first-class, would be a very inadequate representation of the capabilities of our country in this line. There is no good reason why there should not be at least five times as many good ones shown.

In the class for Shorthorn steers under three and over two years old, the competition lay between the two excellent white steers, Village Hero, shown by H. and W. D. Smith, of Hay, and Snowball, entered by Jas. Oke & Son, Alvinston, Ont. The former was a typical export steer and butcher's beast—blocky, low set, deep ribbed, smooth and well balanced, with a well-fleshed back, long, level quarters, full twist and flanks. He was at sight a candidate for the highest honors of the show, and one which improved in one's estimation by longer acquaintance. A son of the white cow, Village Lady, shown by Mr. Cockburn at the Columbian Exhibition, he comes of a royal family, being closely related to the world's champion bull, Young Abbotsburn; he ought to be, as he is, a good one in every sense of the term.

Snowball made a good second. He is large, lengthy, well-matured, and will make a valuable carcass of beef. His fore end is almost faultless, but he lacks a little in width and levelness in his rear end, and is a bit light in his buttocks, as compared with his confrere.

Mr. Oke had first and second prize animals in the section for steers one year and under two. The steer, Ironclad, placed first, is long, level and smoothly fleshed, not as fat as he might be, but promising to go on to make a winner another year.

Steers under one year old were a good lot, the first prize going to a white owned by John Boulton, Armstrong's Mills, a lengthy, straight calf; and second to Mr. Oke's roan, a blocky fellow, which may stand higher in the list another year if he remains in such good hands.

The section for Shorthorn cows, three years and over, was well filled by four entries of high-class animals.

Mr. Crerar's Nonpareil Prize, a white, bred by Arthur Johnston, and sired by Indian Chief (Imp.), has, unfortunately, proved hopelessly barren. She was a prominent figure in the heifer classes at leading shows in the Province, and high hopes were entertained that she would do better service for home and country than winning first prize at a fat stock show at four years old; but she made a good first, and is a model for the breeder and feeder, as well as the inexorable butcher.

Mr. Ballantyne's imported roan, Meadow Sweet, bred by Edward Cruickshank, of Aberdeen, having quit breeding, made an excellent second in a strong ring. She is full of good flesh, firm, smooth and well finished.

John Richardson, of Fergus, got third place with a well-finished and well-proportioned cow, Maude of Fergus.

The other beef breeds have never done themselves full justice at Canadian Fat Stock Shows, and we have failed to understand why their breeders do not see it to be to their interest to prepare some of their best for this competition. Herefords, Polled