

the pleasure of recording a better or more valuable selection of Polled Aberdeens than that just despatched by Mr. Geo. Wilken, Waverside Forbes, N. B., on Mr. Pope's behalf. First, at a very low price, is the wonderful two-year-old Polled bull "Proud Viscount," son of the stock bull at Ballindalloch, "Young Viscount," which was the highest priced young bull of Ballindalloch yet sold at public auction. Mr. Pope's bull, which has proved himself a first-rate stock getter, is out of "Lilius," of Tillyfour, one of the best cows and most fashionable tribes bred by the late Mr. McCombie, and is probably the best two-year-old bull of this breed in the world. In addition to this magnificent animal, Mr. Wilken has purchased for Mr. Pope, "Tillyfour Priacess," and her bull calf, the figure paid for the two reaching four figures in dollars; Damin Sweetheart cow, which will cost \$1000 by the time she reaches her destination; "Ballindalloch Nosegay," the warehouse prize heifer, and a three-year-old cow from Mr. Hannah's herd, are also included in the consignment. A leading man in the cattle trade here, who saw them before they were shipped, informed me that they would be hard to beat by any breed in any country. An interesting commentary on the different herds and their meat producing value, was supplied at the Birmingham show—already referred to—on the publication of a table of the weights of cattle exhibited at the show, showing the average age in days, the gross live weight in pounds, and the average daily gain in pounds. In the steers not exceeding 2½ years, Crosses head the list, with 2.08 lbs. per diem, gain; Shorthorns coming next, with 2.02 lbs., and Herefords with 1.80 lbs.; no other herd being exhibited in the class. In steers not exceeding 3½ years, Shorthorns headed the list, with 1.92 lbs.; Crosses being next, with 1.82; Herefords, 1.72, and Devons, 1.46. In the important class of Oxen, not exceeding 4 years old, Scotch Polled headed the list, with 1.80 lbs.; Crosses being next, with 1.75; Shorthorns, 1.63; Herefords, 1.59; Devons, 1.24, and Highland, 1.07. In the class of heifers, not exceeding four years old, Crosses took the first place, with 1.62; Herefords next, 1.56; Shorthorns, 1.45; Scotch Polled, 1.28, and Devons, 1.08.

The shipments which have recently arrived, of live cattle, have resulted in enormous loss, in consequence, mainly, of the terrific weather experienced on the Atlantic. Canadian sheep, however, have arrived in good order, and have made very fair prices. I must again direct the attention of your readers to the importance of cultivating this branch of their trade. The close and unseasonable weather we have lately experienced has also had a most depressing effect on the markets here; but it is asserted that the home stocks have been somewhat relieved, and that better prices may be looked for; and for first-class cattle and sheep, from what I can glean, there will be better prices paid next year than for a long time past, even if they do not surpass anything since the initiation of the trade.

A consignment of apples, marked and named, and sent forward from your district, by Mr. Smythe, of London, has been exhibited here by Mr. Dyke, and, though the exhibits were hardly so good as last year, they created great interest in the trade; and it is to be hoped that they will lead to an extension of the Canadian share of this rapidly increasing trade in fruits. The shipments to this country, from the States and Canada, have been about 50 per cent. less, up to date, than last year, and I anticipate very good markets for the few Canadian importers who take care to pack only sound fruit, and to transact their business themselves. A consignment of fruit has also

been sent to the German delegates who visited your country, and specimens have been on exhibition at several places in southern Germany, and have created quite a sensation. It is gratifying to learn that those gentlemen were very much pleased with their visit, and spoke very high of the prosperity and comfort that they witnessed in the German settlements in your province.

Mr. Caird and Mr. Alexander have been urging the importance of dairymen improving the quality of cheeses. I notice that prime lots of Cheshire cheese are fetching 75 shillings per 112 lbs., with the prospect of increasing to, at least, 82 shillings. All these facts tend to show the necessity for your farmers keeping up with the times and producing better cheese, as well as better beef, mutton, apples and, indeed, everything else that they export. They may rely upon it that the only exporter who is likely to succeed, is the one who produces the very best article.

As regards emigration, I notice that the Texan agents are working very hard to counteract the agitation in favour of the Dominion, which has been created by the reports of the tour of the Marquis of Lorne, and by the efforts of the Canadian Government to promote education. I understand that they are taxing every line of railroad at the rate of \$25 per mile per annum, to further emigration from Great Britain and Europe. They are now granting assisted passages at £5 per adult to any portion of Texas, children under 5 years of age to be carried free, so that your Canada is not to be allowed to have it all her own way.

Selection of Judges at Fairs.

(FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.)

Of course no thinking person will, for a moment, imagine that among the possibilities is included the selection of judges at fairs or cattle shows who will succeed in pleasing all interested parties. Such is not human nature, but this is a question of greater importance than the management of such affairs usually seem to give to it.

The man who takes unusual care in preparing whatever he may wish to exhibit, and yet fails to secure any honors, while he honestly feels that the excellence of his stock, for instance, should entitle him to second or perhaps first consideration, cannot have very much faith in the judgment of the judges, because he is either compelled to think their decisions unfair or else his judgment at fault, and there are few of us self-sacrificing enough to adopt the latter principle.

Perhaps the greatest and likewise most common cause of trouble in the selection of judges is the naming of men who are pecuniarily or otherwise interested in some one of the breeds, for instance, that are competing for the prizes and honors. Very true, a man to be an able judge must have had practical experience; and in gaining it, it is very natural and quite probable that he will form a liking for some particular kind, most likely that in which he is himself interested, and a prejudice against others that will greatly stand in the way of justice when the awards come to be made. The securing of strictly conscientious men to act in such offices is therefore highly essential, because the man who can utterly ignore anything approaching prejudice on his part and render fair and square judgment based wholly upon the merits of the stock without allowing his likes or dislikes for the exhibitor to cut any figure in the matter, is not the rule, but decidedly the exception.

Judgment, to be fair, must of course be consistent, and anything that smacks in the least of inconsistency is to be avoided. It not unrequently happens that the most apparent incon-

bridged over by the judges in order to soothe the wounded feelings of so highly expectant and possibly influential exhibitor who may have expressed himself as highly disappointed at some of the decisions in which he was interested. An example of this "policy" method of bestowing awards was witnessed at the recent fat stock show held at Chicago, in one or two cases, but the most noteworthy was in the three-year-old and grand sweepstake rings for cattle, where the two great rival breeds, Shorthorns and Herefords, were the principal and in fact the only very sharp contestants. In the three-year-old class the grade Hereford steer, Conqueror, whose age in days amounted to 1,190; average weight 2,145 lbs., and average gain per day since birth 1.30 lbs., was the first prize winner, his sharpest contestant being the grade Shorthorn, McMullen, whose record was, age 1,237 days, average weight 2,095 lbs., and average gain per day since birth 1.61 lbs. Very well, when the entries for the grand sweepstakes were led out, these same two steers were again face to face as principals in the struggle, and the result was that the Shorthorn which was virtually acknowledged to be inferior to the other in the first ring, was decided to be his superior in the second case, by receiving the first premium. The queries naturally arise: Was it the exhibit or the exhibitor that received it? And did the judges make a mistake in the first or the second case? Unquestionably, both decisions could not have been right. The "policy" judgment in such a case as that is too apparent to fail to attract attention, and it is that spirit which should be left out entirely, in such matters. If the Shorthorn was the best in one ring, why not in another? And if he was entitled to the two great honors in the live stock display, why did he not receive them, and of course the same applies with equal force to the Hereford. Evidently the motive was to please both interests, and, as usual in such cases where a person tries to sit on two stools at once, neither were pleased.

Many breeders and dealers are in favor of having different judges for different rings, claiming that there would be less room for unfairness and discrimination, but why would not the same course that is adopted in impanelling a jury, work well in such cases. If the judges knew nothing whatever of the owner of the stock to be judged, and had simply the bare record of age, weight, average gain, etc., and the animals to go by, there would be less cause for complaint at the decisions rendered by the men elected to settle upon the animal's embodying the most desirable results.

Bone Dust for Fertilizing.

The more this substance is used for fertilizing purposes, the greater the value is appreciated. It is well known that in England it is valued higher than any other substance. There the farmers not only use up all the bone of their own country, but the importation of bones from other countries has assumed gigantic proportions. All the old battle fields have been ransacked, and unless reports do an injustice, many an old fellow whose bones were supposed to rest in peace in some grassy, daisy-dowered churchyard, would have to hunt some modern turnip field to find all that remains of them. Foreign countries have not only to pay tribute to England of their wealth during life, but even their bones have to follow, in order to enrich British soil, as while living they worked to fill British pockets. Australia sends an enormous quantity of bones to England. It has become such a heavy trade that the article itself was found too light for profit. Science has been called in to enable the ship owner to take the same weight in less bulk. The bones are first ground, then the dust mixed with some substance to make the particles stick together. Then the material is put under heavy pressure in molds about six inches square, so that it can be packed in the hold without any loss of space. One ton of this bone-cake measures only twenty-six cubic feet. Of course these are all of wild or domestic animals, but still "silence is golden."—Germantown Telegraph.