

Our Scottish Letter. THE ROYAL SHOW.

This is being written in London, where the Royal Show is in progress. Many Canadians are on the ground, including well-known horse importers like Messrs. Robert Beith, Bowmanville; Robert Ness, Howick; and Tom Graham, Claremont; also Professor Cumming, of Halifax, and many more. The visitors from abroad generally are numerous, and at the testimonial banquet to Mr. John Thornton, the noted live-stock auctioneer, on Tuesday evening, addresses were delivered by the Hon. Leslie Combs, from Kentucky; Hon. Wm. McCulloch, from Melbourne, Australia, and Mr. Cassares, from Argentina. Mr. Thornton has, for about forty years, been in front of the business of stock-breeding in this country. He has executed commissions for buyers and sellers in all lands, and enjoys a unique reputation among auctioneers for fairness and honesty. He has a unique acquaintance with the folk—one of Shorthorn history. He began work in the office of Mr. Stafford, who was both secretary of the Coates' Herdbook organization before the institution of the Breed Society, and an auctioneer and salesman. Mr. Thornton was afterwards for a time in the estate office of the Earl of Feversham, who had a fine herd of Shorthorn cattle of the Booth brigade. He afterwards began business on his own account, and enjoys the unique record of having never missed an engagement for thirty-five years. He began to sell on his own account in 1868, and only once—in 1903—was he unable, through illness, to ascend the rostrum and conduct an appointed sale. He sold the highest-priced bull on record in 1875, and has also, during the times of depression, conducted some sales of fine cattle with low averages. The testimonial took the form of the portrait of Mr. Thornton in oil, painted by Mr. Cope, A. R. A., and in acknowledging the gift, Mr. Thornton gave an interesting review of the pedigree-cattle trade during the half century over which his business career has extended. Twenty-two pedigree Shorthorn sales were held in 1850, the average price at which was £19 9s. 9d. In 1874 the average for all sales was £64, and in 1894 it was £28. There has been an upward tendency everywhere among breeds since, chiefly due to the foreign and colonial demand. Mr. Thornton thoroughly deserves all the compliments paid to him. In the course of the evening a letter was read from Sir Dighton Probyn, on behalf of His Majesty the King, in which his high appreciation was expressed for Mr. Thornton.

This long introduction is not out of place, for the Royal Show of 1905 is eminently a Shorthorn event. The quality of the red, white and roan exhibited could hardly be surpassed. Champion honors for males have come with Mr. Robert Taylor, Pitlivi, Carnoustie, taking the gold medal with his bull, Royal Emblem 82154, bred by Mr. James Durno, Jackstown, Rothie-Norman, and got by Lord Lyndoch 74900, from a British Leader cow. This is a wonderfully massive, gay, well-colored bull. He deserved his place, although hard enough pressed by Mr. Albert J. Marshall's Roan Conqueror 84519, the champion at Dublin, and also of north country breeding. He was bred by Messrs. Peterkin, Dunglass, Carson Bridge, and was got by the noted Collynie Conqueror. Mr. A. F. Nichol, Bradford House, Bedford, was third with Baron Butterfly, a son of the noted Baron Abbotsford.

Mr. J. Deane Willis, Bapton Manor, Codford, St. Mary, Wilts, was first with the two-year-old bull, Doynton Brave Archer 85745, a wonderfully good-bodied roan, with fine straight lines. Mr. R. P. Cooper, Shenstone, Lichfield, was second with the white bull Meteor 86631, bred in Wales. Perhaps the greatest favorite in the class was Mr. Philo L. Mills' King Christian of Denmark 86316, which beat the winner at the recent show of the Bath & West Society, at Nottingham, where he was champion. This is an exceptionally sweet-quality bull. He has gaiety and style, with plenty of flesh and substance. Mr. F. Miller, La Belen, Birkenhead, the great Argentine exporter, was fourth with Linpark Champion 86399, an Irish-bred bull, which won first at Belfast and Dublin.

In an enormous class of yearling bulls, Lord Polworth, Mertoun House, St. Boswell's was first with a Booth bull, bred at Warlaby, and named British Renown. Although not free from the roughness of the family or tribe, especially behind, this is a remarkably well-fleshed, short-legged sort, and distinctly a better kind of bull than has been of the Booth cult for a long time. Mr. Deane Willis was second with the Irish-bred roan named Orphan Chief, a very gay and stylish youngster, and, perhaps, with some more of a favorite than the winner. One of the sweetest and best-bred bulls in the class was placed third. He is Mr. A. T. Gordon's Fascinator, from Combescusway, Inch. He was got by Lord Lynedoch, and was bred by Mr. James Durno, Jackstown, who also bred the champion Royal Emblem. Mr. Durno is one of the foremost stock-breeders in Aberdeenshire, and alike in Shorthorns and Clydesdales he has achieved high

distinction. Fascinator is one of the nicest bulls he has ever bred, and the young laird of Newton has made a fine start with so gay an animal. He was an April calf, and, therefore, had a good deal to give away to his more successful competitors which came into the world some months sooner. Mr. George Harrison, Gainford Hall, Darlington, was fourth with the Duthie-bred white bull, Royal Ensign.

The championship for the females went to Mr. F. Miller, La Belen, Birkenhead, for the first-prize two-year-old heifer, Lady Amy 7th. She was bred by the Earl of Powis, Powis Castle, Welshpool, and last year was first here, while this year she has been unbeaten in her class at Dublin, Belfast, Nottingham, Birkenhead, etc. In symmetry and quality of flesh Lady Amy 7th is unsurpassed. She was got by Cornish Knight, and her full sister, Lady Hermoine, the property of the same owner, was fourth in the yearling class, while the Earl of Powis himself was third in that class with a half-sister that is a get of Cornish Knight 78641. The reserve female champion was His Majesty the King's first-prize yearling heifer Reception, a nice roan—a little weak across the loins. She was got by First Fruits 83482, while her dam was by Count Lavender. The second in the yearling class was from Cornwall. The cow-in-milk class was led by the celebrated White Heather, owned by Mr. Deane Willis, and first three, if not four, times at the Royal. She was bred by Mr. J. B. Manson, Kilblean, Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire, and was got by Merry Mason 67486. Not many cows like her have been seen these many years. She wears wonderfully, and stood second reserve for the female championship. Several excellent cows were shown, with greater appearance of milk than has been sometimes noticed among prize Shorthorns. Three-year-olds in milk were not thought to be well judged. Mr. Leopold de Rothschild, Ascott, was first with Lady's Slipper, a useful quality kind of cow, but the three which followed were in greater favor. Mr. Wm. Bell, Ratcheugh, Alnwick, was second with Ratcheugh Witch, which, up to this time, has always beaten the winner. She was got by Baron Abbotsford. Mr. Herbert Leon, Bletchely, was third with Roseleaf, the H. & A. S. champion of last year. The two-year-old class, after the champion was taken out of it, was not extra strong. Second ticket went to Sir Alexander Henderson, Bart., M. P., for Lady Buscot Grace, whose sire was the Uppermill-bred bull Wanderer's Prince. The Earl of Northbrook was third with Clorinda, by Scottish Monarch, a Duthie-bred sire, and Mr. Robert Taylor, Pitlivi, was fourth with a red heifer by the famous Royal Star.

THE SHOW OF ABERDEEN-ANGUS CATTLE

at the Royal was worthy of the breed, and yet it came far short of the merit seen in the Shorthorn section. The Blacks are strongly represented in England, and one of the principal breeders there is Mr. R. W. Hudson, Danesfield, Great Marlow, in the County of Bucks. He was first with his nice level bull, Danesfield Jester, whose formation of head is perfection. There was high distinction in this victory, because the judge was Mr. Robert Bruce, Lenister House, Dublin, and the bull beaten, Mr. George Cran's Jeshurun 19257, the H. & A. S. second-prize winner of last year, which only lacks perfection of formation in head to make him one of the finest bulls ever shown. He was bred at Ballindalloch, and is wonderfully well covered with flesh over the hooks and hind quarters. Mr. Cran was plucky sending his bull so far south. His farm is Morlieh, Glenkindie, away in the Donside uplands of Aberdeenshire. A very successful breeder of black polled cattle in England is Rev. C. Bolden, of Preston, Besset, Bucks. He was third in the class with Publican of Preston 21178, and also won a large share of the prizes in other classes, taking first and second with two-year-old bulls bred by himself, and got by the famous Proud Duke of Ballindalloch. Another fairly successful breeder in the south was Sir James Duke, Bart., Laughton, Sussex. Mr. J. J. Cridlan, Maisemore Park, Gloucester, was fourth in the old bull class, with Wizard of Maisemore 21465, which took champion honors at the Bath and West Show at Nottingham a month ago, beating the bulls in front of him, with the exception of Jeshurun, which was not there exhibited. The best female of the breed at the Royal was Mr. C. E. Hunter's first-prize two-year-old heifer Ruritania, from Selaby, Hull. Mr. Cridlan showed a pair of excellent cows, full sisters, and Mr. J. H. Bridges, Langshott, Horley, was well in front with a capital pair of heifers, got by Equerry of Ballindalloch. The championship of the breed went to Danesfield Jester.

GALLOWAYS.

Galloways were not numerous, but what was lacking in numbers was made up in quality. They were judged by Mr. Samuel Thomson, Manderston, Duns. The chief exhibitor of old bulls was Mr. John Cunningham, Tarbreoch, Dalbeattie, who led the class with Chancellor 9010, an Irish-bred Galloway. Mr. Andrew Montgomery, of Netherhall, Castle-Douglas, led the yearling class with an outstanding animal named Captain II. of Tarbreoch 9169. Sir R. W. Buchanan Jardine, Bart., is apparently going to carry on the good work of his late father, Sir Robert Jardine, Bart., Castle-milk, Lockerbie. He was first with the cow Alice II. of Castlemilk 16352, described by an expert as "a real

gem," which was followed in her class by Mr. John Cunningham's Dorsis of Kilquhanity, the daughter of Great Scot, and that phenomenal show cow, Dora of Durhamhill. Alice II. of Castlemilk was awarded the special gold medal as champion of the breed.

Highland cattle added picturesqueness to the show-yard. They were fewer in number even than the Galloways, but the quality was superb. A new exhibitor, Mr. Wm. Sopper, Dumnaglass, Inverness, was first for both bulls and cows, with the celebrated H. & A. S. champion, King Alaric 1712, and an Islay-bred cow, named Cattadale 5766, whose sire was Victor IX. 1069. She was bought at the Oban sale for about £50. A remarkably fine bull, named Calum Ban of Farr, from Mr. W. D. Mackenzie's fold in Inverness-shire, was second in his class.

AYRSHIRES.

The leading exhibitors of Ayrshires were Mr. Alexander Cross, of Knockdon, Ayr, whose beautiful dairy cow, Lady Jane of Knockdon 18820, winner of the Ayr Derby in 1903, and first in the cow in milk class at Ayr in 1904, was first in the cow class; Mr. James Howie, Hillhouse, Kilmarnock, who was first with his bull, Waynflete 5441, and took other honors; Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Barcheskie, Kirkcudbright, who won with his magnificent Handsome Nell, a two-year-old heifer that takes plenty beating and never succumbs; with Lt.-Colonel Ferguson-Buchanan, of Auchentorlie, Dumbarton, who showed a pair of very fine dairy cows.

Perhaps the most notable thing in connection with the English breeds was the position assigned in the catalogue to the despised Lincoln Reds. They came after the Shorthorns, and are apparently being taken seriously as a breed. They are a variety of the Shorthorn breed, kept distinct in color and milking properties in a district of the great county of Lincoln. Most of them are eligible for registration in Coates' Herdbook, although some are not; hence the existence of a pedigree organization of their own. For a long time the Royal refused to recognize the Lincoln Reds as a distinct variety, but in more recent years they have come to be favored, and this year they were judged by Mr. C. W. Tindall, Wainfleet, who was manager at Aylesby when the great sale of Shorthorns took place there in 1875.

HEREFORDS.

Herefords made a notable display, the championship going to His Majesty the King, for the celebrated prize-winning bull Fire King. The most successful exhibitor of Devons was Mr. J. C. Williams, Caerhays, St. Austell.

HORSES.

Not much space need be occupied with an account of the horse section of this great exhibition. Shires and Hunters were easily the best displays in point of numbers. The former are still in the hands of the wealthy plutocrats of England, the championships going to Lord Rothschild, Tring, Herts, for stallions, and to Sir Philip Albert Muntz, M. P., for mares. The champion stallion was Delamere Chorister 21328, and the champion mare the gray two-year-old Dunamore Fuchsia 44795, with a Clydesdale strain in her veins, through that grand horse Willington Boy 13021. Suffolks were strongly represented, as was ever the case when the show was held near London. Mr. Alfred J. Smith, Rendlesham, Woodbridge, holds his own. The Clydesdale exhibits were highly creditable. The Messrs. Montgomery, Castle Douglas, were leading in the stallion section, with the fine two-year-old horses Baron Fyvie 12451, which took champion honors at Ayr in April. Sir John Gilmour, of Montrave, Bart., showed several useful well-bred sorts. His three-year-old, Montrave Magnus 12255, led his class, and his brood mare, Montrave Rena, was second in her class. He had also second and fourth, with two-year-old fillies. Messrs. Montgomery led the yearling colt class, with their handsome bay colt, by Everlasting, which won at Castle-Douglas. The most successful exhibitor in the female classes was Mr. J. Ernest Kerr, of Harviestoun, Dollar, who had three first prizes. His brood mare, Lady Garnet 14636, was champion female, while her daughter, Lady Rotha, was first-prize two-year-old. Both champions are by Baron's Pride 9122, and Lady Rotha is by Royal Favorite. The first-prize three-year-old was Mr. Kerr's Ambrosine, a strikingly handsome black mare, by Woodend Gartly. The Seaham Harbor Stud (Ltd.) showed several well-bred, good animals, one of the best being the second-prize two-year-old filly, Silver Princess, by Silver Cup.

A CLYDESDALE PEDIGREE FORGED.

Canadians have a right to be interested in the fact that a man named John Weir, Coatbridge, was this week convicted of forging a signature to a Clydesdale pedigree, whereby a certificate for export was obtained from the Clydesdale Horse Society. He was sentenced to 30 days' imprisonment. The filly in question was one of a large shipment made by Mr. Hassard, Millbrook, last fall. She was exported in October, and when the account for registration of her dam and produce was rendered to the alleged breeder, Mr. William Miller, whose alleged signature the schedule bore, he repudiated liability, and on the schedule being presented to him, he at once asserted that the forgery was the work of Weir, with whose writing he was familiar. The filly in question was bought by Mr. Miller from Weir, in June, 1904, grazed by him during the season, and sold by him at public auction in Perth in September, where she was purchased by Weir, acting