

LIVE STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

August is our holiday month, and September our very busy month, hence the difficulty of keeping up correspondence with friends on the other side of the Atlantic. This does not arise from any lack of themes upon which to discourse, because scarcely a week has passed during which big shipments of Clydesdales and other stock have not been made to Canada. The United States is also taking a revived interest in Clydesdales, and more have gone there this season than went for several seasons in the past.

The laxity of home breeders with respect to registration is a hindrance to trade. Farmers here are deplorably destitute of a businesslike method of registering their stock, and Canadian buyers have to go over the ground many times in order to satisfy themselves that everything is in order. In spite of these drawbacks, 1906 has witnessed a big trade in Clydesdales, nearly 900 head having been exported since 1st January, and the prospect is that before the year closes the exports will total 1,000. During the second last week in August a new exporter, named Mr. William Wallace, hailing from London, Ont., sailed with rather a nice lot of animals. He had a stallion got by the noted breeding sire, Royal Favorite, and about half a dozen fillies of good breeding. Another new exporter was Mr. W. E. Butler, from Ingersoll, Ont., who had twelve fillies, many of which, like those shipped by Mr. Wallace, were bred in Kintyre. This district is determined to improve its Clydesdale stock. The Society for the district has hired the grand breeding horse, Montrave Ronald 11121, for 1907. New Zealand has also been getting a good kind of horse bred in Kintyre, and got by the big horse, Sir Hugo, one of the best sires for the Australian trade that we have. We have also been exporting Thoroughbreds to India and Clydesdales to Chili, while the Argentine has been getting more Clydesdale stallions than have gone there for several years. Canada, however, continues our best customer. Mr. Taylor found a new customer in Mr. McLary, Woodstock, Ont., who took away in the last week of August, for Mr. J. W. Innes, of that city, an excellent selection of one Clydesdale colt and nineteen fillies. An unusually high-class shipment was made on 8th September by Messrs. McMillan, Colquhoun and Beattie, Brandon, Man. This shipment included eight stallions and two mares purchased from the Montgomery stud. The mares were prizewinners at Castle-Douglas and Kirkcudbright shows, and the stallions were mainly of the Baron's Pride and Prince Thomas strains. Mr. John McQueen, Carievale, Ass., had fillies by the same steamer, and Mr. T. B. Macaulay, of the Customs Department, Montreal, had several choice females in the same ship. California had a good shipment by the same steamer, in the hands of Mr. McKie, Los Angeles, and Buenos Ayres claimed its weekly quota. Mr. Colin McKeigan, Strathroy, Ont., shipped ten head on 15th September, and an even, well-balanced lot of good animals they were, of rather superior breeding.

At home, during the past week we have had two very successful sales of Clydesdales by auction. Forty-three head of pedigree mares, fillies and colts were sold at Perth on Monday, at an average of £60 16s. 4d. A colt foal by Sir Humphrey went to Mr. James Kilpatrick at 145 gs., and his dam made 105 gs. Another mare made the same money. A two-year-old filly sold for 160 gs., and a three-year-old for 120 gs. Another well-bred three-year-old made 140 gs. A filly foal by Baron's Pride made 100 gs. At the Seaham Harbour foal sale there was an excellent demand. A brood mare sold for 105 gs. after her filly foal, by Silver Cup, had made 110 gs. Ten filly foals sold for an average of £45 4s., and nine colt foals for an average of £51 8s. Thirty-nine head made an average of £50 15s. These were, of course, prices made for useful animals. None of them were show stock, so that readers may form their own estimate of how values are trending in this country.

Next to Clydesdale exportation, or, perhaps, of greater and more widespread interest, are the ram sales. The fortnight has just closed, and we have had exciting enough times. A Border Leicester shearing has sold for £200 (\$1,000), a Blackface shearing for £190, and a Cheviot two-year-old for £100. I saw the three sold, and the experience was exciting enough. Mr. James Swan sold the first out of the Sandyknowe lot at Kelso; Mr. Elliot sold the second out of the Cadgow Bros. lot, at Lanark; and Mr. Oliver sold the third out of the Hindhope lot, at Hawick. Generally, trade in rams has not been quite as good as was anticipated. The high prices of wool and lambs led flockmasters to anticipate an enhanced value for rams all round. As a matter of fact, it was only the best quality rams that were in keen demand; the secondary lots were slowly taken up, and the third were not wanted. Good prices for wool and lambs lead flockmasters to buy a better class of rams, so that the enhanced values have a reflex influence in promoting enhanced quality.

Some incidents of the sales may be noted. Sandyknowe flock was originally founded by Mr. Templeton, who is an Argentine man, at Dromore, in Kirkcudbright. There a solid foundation was laid of sound mutton ewes, and when removal was made a few years ago to Sandyknowe, one of Lord Polwarth's farms, in the very heart of the Border Leicester country, it was to lead

the van. No flock had a reputation to equal that of Mr. Templeton at the Kelso sale this year, and the superb quality and symmetry of his sheep were the theme of universal praise. The purchasers of the £200 tup were Messrs. Arch. Cameron & Sons, Westside, Brechin. Mr. Cameron has one of the oldest flocks in existence, and, in securing such a sheep as Sandyknowe No. 1, of 1906, he has made a notable accession to the flock. The twin of No. 1 was sold as No. 5, and made £90, so that the produce of this one ewe in 1905 netted £290. That is something to boast about, and good trade is indicated by the result.

Oxford Downs are holding their own in Scotland, and, indeed, gradually increasing their hold on the country. The lambs by these south-county tups, out of half-bred ewes, are in great favor, and make higher prices than the lambs of the Border Leicester sire, out of the half-bred ewe. The said ewe is the produce of a Border Leicester sire and a Cheviot ewe, and such ewes have long been the sheet-anchor of agriculture in the Border counties. It is objected by some breeders that the Oxford Down lamb is too large for the matrix of the ewe, and that the half-bred ewes bringing lambs by these sires do not last. Hampshire Downs also invaded Scotland this year. It is not easy to say how they are to get on, the experimental stage being only entered upon, but the Oxford Down is easily the most formidable opponent the Border Leicester has had to face. The lambs from the Oxford Down tups sell best, and the lamb market is the final test with all breeds of sheep.

The Aberdeen-Angus cattle sales have this week been held in England. The first week of September saw a series of sales in Scotland. At Kinochry, near Coup-ar-Angus, 45 head made an average of £24 6s. 3d., and at Corston, more famous for its Shropshires, 47 head made an average of £17 8s. 3d. The highest price

not wanted in Manchester, and what is wanted in Manchester and Glasgow would not do in London. Meanwhile, prices are all right for makers, and that is the main thing all round. "SCOTLAND YET."

Improvement of Argentine Cattle.

It is coming to be recognized that the Argentine cattle-breeders are rather getting the best of us in gradual but certain improvement of the quality of their grazing cattle. It is no secret that Great Britain, year after year, is contributing numbers of fine pure-bred bulls for this work on the great estancias, and there are hundreds of such ranches where not a single grade or cross-bred bull has been used for many years. In fact it has become the policy of most of the great ranchmen to absolutely prevent the use of bulls other than pure-breds, with the inevitable result that on the fine grazing lands the grade cattle are fast taking on the symmetry, quality and condition of the pure-bred sires. An Argentine ranchman who is at present visiting this country, told us the other day, says the Live-stock Report, that where alfalfa succeeds, and there are immense areas of land in his country adapted to this splendid feeding plant, the quality of the cattle is rapidly improving, and as several top-crosses of pure blood (Shorthorn) have been put on, the cattle now show most of the desirable characteristics of that cosmopolitan breed. These Argentine breeders set us an example that should be generally followed, for, while we have started aright, and that many years ago, we have tried too many experiments or now and then relaxed effort in the gradual improvement of feeding stock, so that one must confess that less has been accomplished than

should have been the case. The fact that wide range is getting scarce and that the settler is bringing the plow to bear upon the old grazing lands of the far West has helped to discourage systematic improvement of range cattle, and despite all that has favored the improvement of cattle on arable areas, there is still much to be done before our beef cattle can be considered of fine quality. Apart from the ranch question, it is a fact that hundreds of grade bulls are still being used throughout the corn belt, and that these "fag end" bulls are keeping down the quality of our market stock and so leading to the waste of much good and high-priced feed. It would also seem, from a cursory investigation of the subject, that the



Fontaine's Boyle 73493.

Son of Golden Fern's Lad and of Nunthorpe's Fontaine. Winner of first at Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, and Western Fair, London, 1906, in senior bull calf class. Bred by Hon. A. M. Bowman, Salem, Va. Owned by David Duncan, Don, Ontario.

paid at Kinochry was 53 gs. for the cow Mistress Nellie 32975. The English sales gave better results. The leading sales were held in Northumberland, where the black polled cattle are highly popular. At Birtley, rather in Durham than in Northumberland, an average of £22 2s. 4d. was made for 62 head. The highest price was 58 gs., paid for a cow. At Eshott, a fine farm in Northumberland, £29 9s. 7d. was the average for 39 head. The highest price here was 60 gs. for a cow, another making 55 gs., and a yearling heifer making 58 gs. It cannot be said that the blacks have fared very well so far in the revived interest in stock. The Shorthorn still holds the field, and big averages are the rule at all Shorthorn sales.

The harvest is being got through slowly. Those who were early, as usual, had the best of the weather and have had least cause to grumble. At present the weather is dry, but it is not drying. The absence of rain is accompanied by an absence of drying winds, so that little progress is being made in some places towards saving the crop.

Cheese are keeping very high in price, and there is every prospect of values being maintained. At the Castle-Douglas cheese show, held a week ago, the champion honors went to Mr. Campbell, dairyman, Dromore. Kilmarnock show falls in three weeks, and in the interval we are to have the London show, which is usually worth seeing. Meantime, a Scots maker has gone down and tried conclusions with the Somerset men. He has not done much good, although he got recognized and ticketed. Cheese-judging is purely a matter of local taste. There is no such thing as a fixed standard. What is a good cheese in Glasgow is

very finest "bunches" of cattle that have of recent years come to the market or been seen at the International in carload lots have been bred on the range from pure-bred bulls and fairly high-grade cows. Few of such lots have been bred on the farms of the Middle West, so far as we are aware, although there have been such cattle for many years in certain restricted districts of Illinois and Iowa. The ranch-bred good things are on a par with the fine sorts bred in the Argentine Republic from imported bulls and high-grade cows, and instead of coming to us in small numbers, comparatively speaking, they should predominate in every large market of the country, and come from the small farms and the high-priced land, rather than the great ranges. Apparently there has been more intelligent and persistent effort in the upgrading of range stock during the past ten years than there has been on the small farms, although one would expect the contrary, and it is much to be desired that on high-priced land men would at once stop the use of grade sires of all kinds and determine to breed from nothing but pure-bred stallions, bulls, boars and bucks, and so, in short order and with certainty, bring the general stock of the country to the high plane of quality to which it should have attained at least a dozen years ago. A wonderful interest is being taken in the improvement of corn and other cereals, and good work is being done along other lines of agricultural progress, but it would seem that of late years people have taken less interest in the grading up