

Our Scottish Letter.

Stock-raising is the sheet-anchor of the British farmer. This fact has been forcibly brought home to him during the past fortnight. The great spring bull sales are nearly over, and on all hands there has been seen a distinct revival in the demand for high-class breeding stock. Along with the sales for stock from different herds, a splendid sale of Shorthorns from the Royal herds has been held at Windsor. High averages have been the rule all round. This has been brought about by various causes. The opening of the Argentine ports has quickened the demand for Shorthorns, and some of the highest-priced animals have been bought for Buenos Ayres. The development of Irish agriculture has also contributed to the result. Of 270 Shorthorn bulls sold at the Perth sale, no fewer than 80 were secured by buyers acting under the supervision and receiving the grants of the Irish Board of Agriculture. It is more difficult to account for the phenomenal advance in Aberdeen-Angus values. It was the supreme demand for Trojan-Ericas which sent up the value of the blackskins at Perth until the unprecedented figure of 480 gs., or £520, was realized for a yearling bull. There is more of a pedigree craze about the A.-A. boom than about the Shorthorn advance. Men are keen on the Ericas, but curiously enough, it is only one line of Ericas that makes fancy or phenomenal figures. There is a big drop from the high-water mark reached by Trojan-Ericas to the best position filled even by the Kildonan-Ericas. We believe both bulls were in use at Ballindalloch, and if anything that Kildonan was to appearance the better animal. However, blood tells. The same feature was seen in the Highland cattle sale at Oban. The picturesque mountaineers are a year later in being finished than the Shorthorns or Angus, but they can live where the thinner-skinned breeds would find it hard to pick up a living. Galloways were sold in large numbers at Carlisle and Castle Douglas, but there were rather many inferior bulls shown amongst them. This reduced the averages, although for good fleshy bulls prices were all that need be desired.

Looking at matters a little more in detail, we find the average for 294 A.-A. bulls at Perth was £32 15s. 7d. By far the best return was made by the celebrated Ballindalloch herd, the home of the Ericas. Seven bulls from this renowned center made the astonishing figure of £229 1s. 0d. each, the highest, as we have said, being 480 gs., at which figure the manager for the Earl of Rosebery, K.G., secured the first-prize yearling in the older section. The entries are so numerous at Perth that the yearling bulls are divided into two classes. The sire of this great youngster was the fine bull Delamere, bred by Mr. Patrick Chalmers, of Aldbar, Brechin, who owns one of the oldest herds in the world. After a distinguished career in the hands of Mr. Alex. McLaren, Auchnaguite, Kingussie. This fine bull was purchased by Sir George Macpherson, Bart., and for two seasons he has headed his famous herd. The Perth Shorthorn sale took place this week, when 272 young bulls made the fine average of £35 1s. 9d., an advance of £4 17s. 5d. on last year's average. The highest price was 260 gs., or £273, paid by Mr. Dan. MacLennan, the well-known South American exporter, for the first in the older class of yearlings. This youngster was bred by Mr. W. A. Dron, Crieffvechter, Crieff. The Shorthorns, it will thus be seen, made a higher average than the Polled Angus, although the latter had the best price for one. The Shorthorn sale was the leveller of the two. The Inverness sale was held between the two Perth events, and resulted in 64 Shorthorn young bulls

making an average of £32 8s. 4d. His Majesty's sale at Windsor was held on the day following the Perth Shorthorn sale. It drew an immense concourse of visitors from, it might almost be said, all parts of the Empire. Sixty-eight animals of all ages and both sexes made an average of £82 2s. 5d. apiece. The highest individual price was 800 gs., or £840, paid by Mr. Miller, from Buenos Ayres, for the celebrated champion bull, Royal Duke. This great specimen was bred

holds on its way, and nothing better can be desired in the way of beef than a piece of a prime Galloway. In the N.-W.T. the Galloway and the Highlander should have a look-in. Why do not good men take up these ideal breeds for a hard climate, and push them for all they are worth. The Galloway has many good friends like Mr. David McCrea, at Guelph, and Mr. Martin, at Winnipeg, but there's room for many more, and the Highlander deserves the care and attention of the mammoth millionaires who have coined money out of the C. P. R.

Clydesdales are being shipped in considerable numbers this spring. A large shipment of 31 head left this week, per the Donaldson liner. They were selected and shipped by Mr. Oswald Sorby, Guelph, Ont., and Mr. J. A. Turner, Calgary, Alta. Twenty-two head belonged to the latter gentleman, nine to Mr. Sorby, and three were for Messrs. Mutch Bros., Lumsden, Assa. The Clydesdale is the horse for the Northwest; he is hardy, clean-boned, active, and has any amount of grit. I see some Shire men have been invading



CHESTER WHITE HOGS.

Bred and fed by Robert Clarke, Ottawa Co., Ont.

by Her late Majesty at Windsor, where he was sold. He is a marvellously fleshed animal, with a beautiful mossy coat, and having a record which includes the championships of the national shows of England, Scotland, and Ireland, he crosses the South Atlantic with a great reputation. The next highest price was £315 (300 gs.), paid by Mr. J. Douglas Fletcher, of Rosehaugh, Ross-shire, for the two-year-old, Body Guard 78423, a splendidly-covered young bull, although a little light in color. He was bred at Sandringham. The highest price for a female was 210 gs., or £220 10s., at which figure Lord Calthorpe secured the roan two-year-old heifer, Sweetheart, a daughter of Royal Duke. A red-roan three-year-old, named Circe, got by the Scots bull, Pride of Fame 73238, went to Sir Alex. Henderson, Bart., Buscot, at 200 gs., or £210. This is a very fine specimen of the wide, deeply-fleshed Scots Shorthorn. Twenty-one yearling bulls made an average of £53 1s. 0d., which is surely good enough even for a Royal sale.

Breeders of Highland and Galloway cattle have to rest content with lower averages than the owners of the "crack" beef breeds. Fifty-seven bulls were sold at Oban, and made an average of £28 7s. 10d., which was thought quite good. The highest figure was £121, paid by Mr. J. Douglas Fletcher, of Rosehaugh, for the first-prize two-year-old. Other two bulls made £110 each, and several made useful prices, but no others crossed the three figures. The Galloways move on a steadier level, without going so very high, nor yet dipping very low. More than is the case with the more favored breeds, Galloway bull fanciers have not yet learned to select close enough and to use the knife freely. Still, the breed

these Northwestern parts, but it will not be the place for the rough-legged horses. The Shire show this week was held in London, and was quite a success. The breed at present is enjoying a flood-tide of prosperity. It has been taken up, as were Bates cattle in days past, by leaders of fashion and men of wealth. The King is an enthusiastic breeder, and won the gold medal this week as breeder of the champion mare at the London show. With Lord Rothschild working at the game, and many others of great wealth, prices go high, and the tenant-farmer occasionally gets a look-in. This year the stallion championship went to last year's winner, Messrs. Forshaw & Sons' Stroxtan Tom. This firm's place is at Carlton-on-Trent, in Notts, and they scored well, taking four first prizes for horses four years old and up to eleven. Mr. Forshaw had four sons in the ring, leading as many first prize horses for the final. Lord Rothschild had not only the champion and reserve champion female, but he had also the junior champion stallion in Birdsall Menestrel, which came very near beating Stroxtan Tom for the final. The noticeable feature of the show this year was the comparatively small number of stallions four years old and upwards, which survived the "vetting test." It is obvious that the Shire has still a deal of leeway to make up in this particular.

In the numerous field trials, to test varieties of oats, splendid results have been got with a Canadian oat called the Banner. Principal Wright is conducting elaborate experiments in the West of Scotland, and the best results in grain have been got with the Banner. Curiously enough, the favorite Scots varieties, known as Sandy and Potato oats, have secured a medium



LAIRD OF CRAIGIE [3378] (11084).

Imported Clydesdale stallions. Property of Messrs. Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont.

PIONEER [3374] (11131).

LAVENDER [3375] (11394).