

upper few feet of silage from falling away from the walls, which it is liable to do more or less as the mass in the center settles down. By tramping the edges a little the air is kept out and mold prevented.

### Our Scottish Letter.

The past fortnight has been an exceptionally busy one in the stock world here. We have had splendid weather, and harvest operations have been completed under the best of conditions. There has been a lengthened series of Aberdeen-Angus sales, both in Scotland and in England, and three more are to come. Unlike the breeders of Shorthorn cattle, the breeders of the black Polls have not had any foreign trade to speak of, and their averages have, therefore, been somewhat under the figures to which in the past they have been accustomed. The sales have been conducted by Messrs. Macdonald, Fraser & Co., Ltd., Perth, and while trade has been profitable there have been no fancy prices, only a very few going beyond the hundred. The series opened at Ballindalloch, in Banffshire, the seat of the most noted herd of the breed, perhaps, in the world. An average of £47 12s. 4d. each was got for 20 head, the highest price being 105 gs., paid by Mr. Findlay, of Aberlour, for an Erica. On the same day 19 head were sold from the neighboring herd of Anchorachan, and they made an average of £32 9s. 10d. On the following day, at Aberlour, the highest price recorded during the fortnight, viz., 190 gs., was obtained for the prize cow, Pride of Honour 33608, and a yearling heifer made 100 gs. The average price of the 40 head sold was £35 2s. 5d. The third day the sale was held at Tochineal, Cullen (still in Banffshire). Selections were there sold from four separate herds. £65 2s. was the highest individual price recorded, and the average for cows did not exceed £35 7s. 0d. each. Three two-year-old heifers from the Cullen House herd of the Countess Dowager of Seafield made an average of £41 13s. each, the highest price for one of them being £54 12s. 0d. The fourth day's sale was held at Portlethen, in Kincardineshire, some few miles south of the city of Aberdeen. The offering from that herd, which is one of the oldest in the country, was 33 head, and the average price was £23 6s. 5d. Along with these were sold 22 head from the fine herd owned by Mr. George Cran, Morlich, Glenkindie, away in the uplands of Strathdon. These made the better average of £28 12s. 3d. The fifth day's sale was held farther south still, viz., at Aldbar, in Angus, where another fine old herd is kept by Mr. Patrick Chalmers. Ten head from his herd made £34 15s. 1d. of an average. Thirteen head from the Earl of Airlie's herd, at Cortachy Castle, made £21 8s. 10d., and 11 head from the herd of Col. McInoy, of the Bener, Edgell, made £18 14s. 2d. This week two of the sales were held in England and two in Scotland. At Balliol College Farm, Newcastle-on-Tyne, where Mr. Clement Stephenson keeps a fine stock, 40 head were sold at an average of £26 14s. 5d. On the following day, further south, in county Durham, the Selaby herd was dispersed, and 55 head made an average of £35 0s. 5d. Two high prices were paid, 112 gs. being got for an Erica cow, and 115 gs. for an Erica yearling heifer. The next sale was held at Bardrill, Perthshire, where 40 head made £27 10s. 2d., the highest price being 71 gs. for an Erica yearling heifer. The stock bull, Tust Rover of Morlich II. 18000, a noted winner, made 70 gs. At a sale consisting of animals from various herds, held to-day in Perth, only commercial cattle prices were obtained. Next week two important sales are to be held in the south of England, one at Preston Bisset, in Buckingham, and the other at Maisemore Park, in Gloucester.

While the blacks have not been beating any records, a very notable record-breaking sale of Highlanders has been held at Kinnaird Castle, Brechin. The notable fold of the oldest domestic breed founded and built up by the late Earl of Southesk, was all but dispersed on the date named, and some extraordinary prices were realized. Cows and heifers predominated, only four bulls being sold, yet the average for 78 head of breeding stock was £48 12s. 2d. Twenty-four cows made £63 3s. 7d. apiece, one named Lady Clara 4234 drawing 105 gs.; another, Lady May Malvinia 4820, making 130 gs.; a third, Princess Morella 5302, outdistancing all competitors and making 200 gs.; while Princess Lilian 5300 made 100 gs. Fifteen calves from these cows made an average of £16 16s. 8d. Eleven three-year-old heifers made the splendid average of £83 12s. 4d., one going at £25 gs., and two at 190 gs. apiece, while a bull made 75 gs., and a fourth 65 gs. Fourteen two-year-old heifers made the average of £47 9s. 3d., and one of them capped the sale by making 300 gs., an unprecedented figure for an animal of her age and breed. She is named Princess Almira 6231, and was first at the Highland. The 10 yearling heifers made an average of £34 9s. 10d., and one of them went at 100 gs. The record sale of Highland cattle up to Wednesday last, was the Taymouth Castle dispersion in 1864. It was not anticipated that the average then secured would

ever be surpassed, but the Kinnaird Castle sale casts Taymouth Castle sale into the shade. A curious history attaches to the Kinnaird Castle fold. The late Earl of Southesk was the breeder of the first Erica cow of the A.-A. breed. His manager at the time was Mr. James Peter, who has been for many years manager to Lord Fitzhardinge, at Berkley Castle, in Gloucester. Many good A.-A. cattle were bred by Lord Southesk and Mr. Peter, although, of course, Erica is an easy first amongst them. In 1866 the rinderpest broke out in Angus, and the highly-bred Kinnaird Castle herd came under its dominion. The disease laid the splendid herd low, and Lord Southesk buried in one pit more than two score head of his favorites. He managed to save Erica by isolating her and one or two more, but he never again resumed the black Polled breed. After some years he turned his attention to Highlanders, and for the past twenty years his colors were more or less in the front at all the leading shows and sales. His cattle were big and roomy, and in this respect differed somewhat from those bred on the western seaboard or in the islands. They were very true to type, a fact largely due to the use of the very true-bred bull, An-T-Isgair (13), the foundation of the fold. This choicely-bred bull, whose name, being interpreted, is The Fisherman, was bred in Harris by the Earl of Dunmore. He was marvellously full of character and very true to type, and the characteristics which he impressed upon the Southesk fold were never effaced, although the size and scale of the cattle were greatly augmented. Many lessons may be gleaned from Lord Southesk's experience. He had the breeder's instinct, and was supremely happy when leisurely travelling through his great park examining his favorite Highlanders. In the park are also to be seen many different kinds of animals, the place being somewhat of a domestic menagerie.

It is not only in the cattle world that trade has been thriving of late. Sheep have been selling wonderfully well. Cheviot tups have made fine averages at the Hawick sale, and at Lanark, on Tuesday, a Border Leicester gimmer yearling ewe was sold by public auction for £20. Oxford Down rams were more numerous at the Kelso ram sale this year than native Border Leicesters. Great success has attended the breeding and feeding of lambs got by an Oxford Down ram out of a ewe got by a Border Leicester sire from a Cheviot dam. Breeders of Border Leicesters are not much disturbed by the popularity of the Oxford Downs, as, of course, they see quite well that their own favorites cannot be dispensed with, being the foundation of the cross. There is just a possibility of the breeders of Oxford Downs overdoing the business. They threaten to glut our Scots market, and that will be a misfortune for themselves.

"SCOTLAND YET"

## FARM.

### Lengthen the Rounds.

At this season, when a good deal of plowing is being done, an effort should be made to arrange things so as to permit a lengthening of fields, wherever possible, with a view to expediting the work of cultivation and increasing the advantage of using three- or four-horse teams. We must imitate Western methods more and more. Twenty years ago the idea of using a two-furrow plow for anything except light-gauging stubble ground would have been scouted in the Provinces east of Lake Superior. It is not long since a six-foot mower was an innovation. Fifteen years ago a drag-harrow for more than two horses would have been thought unnecessary, and many of the present-day fast-working implements would have been thought impossible under Eastern conditions. But conservatism is giving way to the irresistible force of Western example. Western implements and Western methods are being modified and adapted to an ever-increasing extent, useless fences have been torn down, stumps, stone piles and other obstructions have been removed; low places have been underdrained, permitting their cultivation with the surrounding land, and we are doing our farming on a more businesslike scale. Scarcity of labor has had much to do in bringing this about, and has thus operated to the farmer's advantage, for the new methods have not only enabled him to pay higher wages to his hired help, but they have increased the earning power of his own labor—have, in other words, enabled him to pay himself and his family bigger wages for what they do on the farm. It is hard to say how far evolution of methods will carry us, whether the day of steam or electric-motor cultivation is near at hand, or what will be the next development; but progress lies in increasing the earning power of labor by every means in our power. The wise farmer is he who looks ahead and plans for probabilities, instead of waiting until economic conditions compel him to change.

While the system of rotation and mixed farming as now followed necessitates division of the farm and the enclosure of portions of it by permanent or portable fences, there is no reason why many fields as we need to have them now

still see in some localities. One reason we kept the small fields as long as we did was a failure to appreciate the loss of time entailed by short rounds. That it is considerable is proved by the difference in the acreage one can plow per day in a long or a short field; so with mowing and everything else. Yet we have seen men whose farms are divided into five- and six-acre fields, all fenced, go into one of them to plow half of it for grain, and, instead of plowing half the width, divide the field crosswise, thereby doubling the turning, although there was nothing to be gained in drainage, or in any other way. Loss of time caused by short turns is one of the many wastes that eat up profits. Some argue that turning rests the horses, but the observant teamster knows that turning with a binder, a disc harrow, a mower, or even a plow, is as hard as if not harder, than drawing straight ahead. If the facts were known, very likely many a sore neck and shoulder could be attributed to much turning with heavy-tongued implements. Let us get out of the ruts of old methods and lengthen our fields. Now is the time to do it. There is room on many farms for improvement in this direction, saving wages, horseflesh, headlands and fence-corners which are so often a seeding place for weeds.

### Canada Forestry Convention Called.

From the Premier of Canada, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, we are in receipt of the following communication:

To the Public of the Dominion of Canada:

Canada possesses one of the largest areas of virgin forest of any country in the world, and is ranked by European experts first, or among the first, of the important sources of the world's timber supply for the future. The preservation of the streams in perennial and constant flow, which is largely controlled by the forests on the watersheds, will have an important influence on the industrial and agricultural development of the Dominion. The expansion of our electrical and mechanical industries will be regulated to a great extent by water, which forms the greatest source of power in all countries, and some of our Western districts are dependent on irrigation to ensure the success of agricultural operations. In all the older Provinces the clearing of the soil has been carried to such an extent that the ill effects on the water supply and on agriculture are clearly marked, while on the Western prairies the need of sheltering trees for houses and fields is seriously felt by the settlers. The early construction of the Transcontinental Railway, and of other railways, through our northern forested districts, and the consequent opening of those districts to general traffic, will increase the danger from fire, which has already been a most active agent of destruction. These conditions are not new; they have from time to time received public attention, and during the session just closed Parliament authorized the summoning of a convention for the more thorough discussion of the same.

I therefore hereby call a public convention, to meet in the City of Ottawa on the 10th, 11th and 12th of January, 1906, under the auspices of the Canadian Forestry Association, and to this convention are specially invited members of the Senate and House of Commons, Lieutenant-Governors of the Provinces, Members of the Legislative Councils and Legislative Assemblies of the Provinces, Dominion and Provincial Forest Officials, Members of the Canadian Forestry Association, representatives of Lumbermen's Associations, representatives of Boards of Trade, representatives of Universities, representatives of Agricultural Colleges, representatives of Farmers' Institutes, representatives of Railway Companies, representatives of the Canadian Mining Institute, representatives of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, representatives of Associations of Land Surveyors, representatives of Fish and Game Associations, and all others who take an interest in Forestry.

An invitation is also extended to the Bureau of Forestry of the United States, the American Forestry Association, and the State Forestry Bureaus and Associations to send representatives to this convention.

WILFRID LAURIER.

[Note.—Additional particulars and, in due course, programme of the above gathering may be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. R. H. Campbell, Department of the Interior, Ottawa.—Ed.]

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