

them for any length of time when they are running together. It is the old story over again, get the sire right and improvement under rational conditions is sure. A younger Cruikshank bull bought by Mr. Miller in Chicago is happily.

The Shropshire sheep are found, one would almost conclude, everywhere about the farm. They number some 250 head, of which 70 head are imported. Mr. Miller remarked to us that he always liked to have about him enough to supply a car load on short notice. He is also doing a good business in imported Clydes, of which there are several head on hand of both sexes.

(To be continued.)

The Shire Horse and His Origin.

Read by F. GREEN JR., before the Shire Horse Association.

(Concluded from last issue.)

In the year 1566 heavy horses in England appear to be superior to those of any other country, and we have a fuller description of the "Great horse" by Thomas Blundeville, who in the quaint old English of his day says: "Though not finely, yet strongly made, he is of a great stature, the mares also be of a great stature, strong, long, large, fayre and fruitful, and beside that will endure great labor in their wagons, in which I have seen two or three mares go lightly away with such a burden as is almost incredible; but now to content the country man his desire, which seeketh to breed horses for draught or burden, where should I wish him to provide himself of mares and stallions better than here in England," and adds, "I have seen better proportioned horses in their carts than I have known to be finely kept in stables as jewels for the saddle." In the reign of James I. A.D. 1603, we have further evidence that the English draught horse of that period was superior to the Flemish horse, as a mention contained in the Herbert Manuscript, is made that 10,412 horses would be required to carry the baggage of the army, which was to be sent to the Continent to support the claims of the Prince Palatine to the crown of Bohemia, and of a proposal being made to the council that a part at least of these horses should be obtained where they and their drivers could be hired by the day in the low countries (*i.e.* Flanders). It was also suggested that "in addition 200 strong horses, such as cannot be hired, should be bought outright," thus contrasting the superior merit of the English over the foreign horses of that day. It is worthy of note besides that the low country horses, together with their harness and furniture, were valued at £9 a piece, while the English horses were each estimated at £15. About 40 years later the Duke of Newcastle, in a book written by him, describes the "Great horse" as having large limbs, heavy crest, silky-haired fetlocks, and flowing mane and tail, characteristics which our present Shire horses still possess. Coming to more recent times Arthur Young, in the latter part of the last century, in describing his tours through the counties of England and Scotland, mentions only two varieties of cart horses as deserving attention, viz., the large black old English cart horse, the produce principally of the Shire counties in the heart of England, and the sorrel-colored Suffolk Punch, thus completely ignoring the Clydesdale horse as either not in existence or else not coming under the category of a cart horse at that time; while the *Sporting Magazine*, in the year 1796, in an article under heading of "Operations of British Horses," says:—"We have a large and strong breed in the more fertile and luxuriant parts of the Island, and there is no country can bring a parallel to the strength and size of our horses destined for the draught, as there are instances of single horses that are able to draw the weight of 3 tons." From the foregoing brief extracts I think that sufficient evidence has been adduced to show that our present Shire horse is the closest representative of, and the purest in descent, from the oldest form of horses in Britain, and is the direct descendant of the steeds which nearly 2,000 years ago assisted our forefathers in repelling the attacks of the invader, Julius Caesar. It must not be understood that I wish to imply that the horse of that date was an exact representative of our present Shire horse, but there can be no doubt that he must have been an animal possessed of great power and activity to have drawn the attention of Caesar, who must have been familiar with all horses of the then known world, inasmuch that he exported some of them to Rome where

they excited great admiration. Since that time almost constant attention has been paid to increasing the size and strength, until in the year 1566 we have a breed which for the draught could not anywhere at that time be excelled, and it is worthy of note that this was accomplished principally by judicious selection. This being the case their character has become permanently fixed, a very important point, for experience has certainly proved that the longer a type has been established the more certain it is to reproduce itself. Mr. R. S. Reynolds, M.R.C.V.S., the Veterinary Inspector of the Corporation of Liverpool, amongst other reasons for his preference of the Shire horse, strongly asserts his belief, that the original type of every other draught breed being of much lighter build than the existing race, the tendency of the progeny of all other breeds to revert to the original form, will not only be marked when bred amongst themselves, but when crossed with mares of other blood which are deficient in bone, degeneration will be still more rapid. An instance of this may be seen at the present day amongst the Clydesdales. In the earlier volumes of the Scotch Clydesdale Stud Book, horses having Shire blood were freely admitted, but at the time when a resolution was passed to decline all further entries having alien blood in their veins, it was prophesied by many that the result would be a deterioration in size, and their prognostications have proved correct, for at the present time a marked diminution is apparent. I am aware that this has been denied, and that the present Secretary of the Scotch Clydesdale Stud Book has repeatedly written letters to the press to the effect that such is not the case, yet if it is not so it appears strange that at a meeting of the Scotch Clydesdale Association held a short time ago one of the members should have brought forward a resolution to the effect that Clydesdale judges should be requested to lay more stress on size when making their awards, and at the same time it was mentioned that they were now doing so, and it is still more strange that a dealer from Scotland should be present at the last London Shire show purchasing stallions with a view of breeding geldings from Scotch mares for the granite paved streets of Aberdeen, while the following week Mr. Geo. Robb, of the Caledonian Railroad, the largest buyer of heavy draught horses in Scotland, should be in England buying geldings, and moreover that these gentlemen should assert that at the present time there is no such thing as good Scotch-bred gelding to be found on a Scottish street, and further, that the rank and file of Scotch colts, if castrated, would be utterly unable to perform the heavy lorry work of their cities. Much more could be written on this subject but enough has, I think, been said to prove that there is no breed so well calculated to produce animals fit for the lorries, and I know no other breed that should prove so prepotent in impressing his enormous bulk, his prodigious muscular strength, and his lamb-like docility on his offspring as the Shire horse.

For the CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

Canadian Live Stock at Buffalo Fair.

Buffalo International Exposition has closed and the general verdict given by all who have visited it is, that were the exhibit of live stock from Canada taken away, there would be a very poor show left, and this is more especially true of the heavy draught horses, for here we find that by far the biggest share of the money awarded in premiums went to swell the coffers of some of the more enterprising of our Canadian breeders and importers. The following is a list of the premiums carried off by Canadian exhibitors.

Clydesdales.—In the class for stallion and four of his get there was no representative for Canada, and both prizes went to horses owned in New York State. In aged stallions the blue rosette was awarded to P. Farrell, of Woodstock, Ont., for Custodian, a short-legged, low-set horse, showing very heavy bone and lots of hair, but hardly, in our opinion, equal in smoothness and quality to the second prize horse, Laird o'Logan, owned and exhibited by Charles Dalgleish, of Chesterfield, Ont. Laird o'Logan is a smooth compact horse with nice quality of bone and hair, and had the opinion of the spectators been taken, we hardly think the judge's decision would have been sustained.

Three year old stallions: In this class, however, even a greater surprise was in store for the spectators, who had almost unanimously agreed in giving the coveted honor to a colt shown by P. M. McGregor, of Brucefield, Ont., for the judge, Mr. Davidson, the well-known dog fancier, selected a colt, owned by Walter & Mitchell, of Tilsonburg, Ont., and got by the well-known sire McLamon, for the first place, the second going to Andrew Marshall, of Ayr, Ont., for a nice smooth horse sired by Ghillie Callum; McGregor's colt which was undoubtedly the superior of either of these in quality and action, was placed third.

Two year old stallions: There was but one Canadian competitor, Andrew Marshall, and he was awarded the blue; while in yearlings, the only Canadian, a colt got by Laird o'Logan, out of a grade mare, was not placed, the imported colts proving too much for him.

In aged mares, Alexander Innes, of Clinton, Ont., came first with a six year old mare weighing some 2160 pounds. While another of Laird o'Logan's get, a two year old filly, took fourth place in her class.

Shires.—The competition in shires was a good deal stronger than in Clydes, some of the best studs in America being represented, still the Canadians managed to take away over half the premiums. The largest exhibitors from Canada being Messrs. Ormsby & Chapman, of Springfield-on-the-Credit, Ont., who showed nine head of colts and fillies and took away eight prizes, viz.: 3rd in three year old stallions; 2nd and 4th in two year old stallions; 1st and 2nd in yearling stallions; 5th in aged mare, with a three year old filly, and 1st and 2nd in yearling fillies. Next to them came Messrs. Morris, Stone & Wellington, who took 3rd in aged stallions; 5th in year old stallions; 3rd and 4th in aged mares; and 3rd in yearling fillies. While Messrs. Jas. Gardhouse & Son of Malton, Ont., took 1st for stallion and four of his get; and 5th in the aged stallion class, and W. H. Millman, of Woodstock, Ont., 5th in three year old stallions; and 2nd in aged mares, the 1st in this class being taken by Green Bros., of Innerkip, Ont., with their chestnut mare Georgia, by Royal George II., winner of 3rd at Islington last year. Besides these the 1st and 2nd prizes for the best heavy draught teams were awarded to W. H. Millman and Messrs. Morris, Stone & Wellington, with representatives of several other draught breeds.

Light Horses.—The Canadian exhibit of light horses was confined to the carriage and saddle classes, but some capital specimens of both were shown by Messrs. Moorhouse and Pepper, of Toronto; F. C. Grenside, of Guelph; W. H. Millman, of Woodstock; and Jas. Matthews, of Acton, Ontario. The first mentioned gentlemen, especially, deserving a great deal of credit for their exhibit of light harness horses and hunters, their horse Roseberry winning the high jump with 6 ft. 6 in. to his credit.

Cattle.—As usual, John Hope was present with a contingent from the famous herd at Bow Park, and right worthily did he maintain the character of Canadian Shorthorns, for the Bow Park herd was awarded not only every premium for which they competed in their class, but also both the sweepstakes for old and young herds in the beef breeds contest. We might mention that the Bow Park exhibit was headed by the famous bull Cup Bearer, purchased last spring by Mr. Hope at the dispersion sale of Luther Adams, by whom he was purchased from his breeder, Mr. Wm. Duthie, of Collingie.

Sheep.—In sheep, Canada was again well represented. Messrs. John Jackson, of Abingdon, and Robert