

Majesty the Queen at one of her northern farms, and was out of the famous champion cow Gentian of Ballindalloch. His buyer was the Earl of Longford, who with not a few other Irish breeders, as well as breeders from England and others holding foreign commissions, were present at the sale. It may be of interest to mention several of the other averages at this good sale. Anchorachan, a superior herd owned by Mr. George Smith Grant and situated in the uplands of Banffshire, had £36 4s. 6d. of an average for four; Lord Rosebery had £35 19s. 3d. for an equal number; the Queen had £35 18s. 3d. for five; Colonel Smith, of Minmore, and Mr. Whyte, Spott, had £34 2s. 6d. apiece; and Mr. Clement Stephenson had £31 10s. for three. Except in the case of one or two who had abnormal averages last year, every herd represented, almost, showed an advance on last year's prices.

A meeting of breeders was held on the night before the sale, when it was resolved to send out a consignment of A.-A. cattle to the exhibition in Buenos Ayres in autumn. The breeders of the blacks are extremely plucky, and are determined not to be beaten.

At Inverness there was a grand sale of Shorthorns and a very good sale of Aberdeen-Angus cattle. Mr. C. M. Cameron, Balnakyle, was the principal and most successful exhibitor of the red, white and roan. The champion of the meeting was his yearling Tip Top, which Mr. MacIennan bought to export to Buenos Ayres, at 74 guineas. Mr. Cameron also won the special prize for the best group of three. Mr. Fletcher, of Rosehaugh, was a successful exhibitor of both breeds and made excellent averages for his bulls. Mr. Cameron, Balnakyle, sold five Shorthorn bulls at £40 14s. 9d. apiece; Lord Lovat, who has a splendid herd of red cattle at Beaufort, sold seven at £30 9s.; Rosehaugh sold four at £28 7s.; and Mr. Inglis, of Newmore, sold three, making the same average. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon had £27 11s. 3d. for four, and Major MacKenzie, of Braelangwell, made £25 16s. 7d. for five. A very marked advance was noticeable in all the averages. The same remark applies to the sales of Aberdeen-Angus cattle. Ballindalloch sold five bulls at an average of £43 13s. 5d.; Rosehaugh sold one at £27 6s. Others made averages of from £25 to £26. The Penrith sale introduces us to a somewhat different line of Shorthorn breeding. All the cattle of that breed hitherto referred to have been of Cruickshank breeding. At Penrith, in Cumberland, they were Booth and Bates, and the latter made the best prices. Fifty-one bulls were sold at an average of £32 per head. The auctioneer was Mr. John Thornton, and the championship went to Mr. Joseph Harris, of Calthwaite Hall, the High Sheriff of Westmoreland, for a Bates bull of the Duchess race. This youngster was bid up to 81 guineas (that is, £85 1s.), but his owner's reserve was 125 guineas, so he was not sold. Lord Brougham and Vaux won the group prize and sold his stock to good advantage. In spite of the predominance of Booth and Bates blood in this sale, a Cruickshank bull, Lord Chamberlain, owned by Mr. Handley and bred by Mr. Peterkin, Dunglass, was first in the two-year-old class. He was sold for 50 guineas, for South America. The second-prize winner in the same class went at 71 guineas, for the same trade. A large number of the bulls in the next younger class made about 50 guineas apiece. The first-prize bull calf was from Mr. Handley's well-known herd. He was sold at 50 guineas to Mr. Punchard, Underley, where the late Earl Bective kept his renowned herd of Bates cattle; but the highest price was 57 guineas, paid for an unplaced bull in this class. He was got by the celebrated champion bull, New Year's Gift. Shorthorn and Aberdeen-Angus bulls were again the leading features at the Stirling show and sale. Here, again, prices showed an advance of about £2 per head, and a good trade was experienced.

It may be asked, to what is this enhanced demand due? And it is significant that at the same time as these successful sales have been going on, the President of the Board of Agriculture has introduced his bill making statutory the present order closing the ports of this country to store cattle. The bill will in all likelihood become law without much trouble, and thus confidence will be given to breeders to pursue their present policy of raising store cattle for home consumption. There is no doubt at all that this policy is the best for the breeders of this country, and in the end it will be the best for the feeders as well. They will have an assured and steady supply of store cattle always at hand, instead of being at the mercy of the threatened closure by the Board, through the presence of imported disease. It is not likely Canadians will take quite the same view of this question as I do, but I write from the standpoint of the Old Country. Another important reason for the increased demand is the growing foreign trade. South America is buying Shorthorns largely, and a few are nibbling at the Polled cattle for the same market also. Breeders altogether are in much better spirits at present than they have been for a long time.

The long drought in Australia, as is known, was the cause of enormous fatality amongst sheep, and the latest computation puts the losses at no fewer than 9,540,000 head. It is calculated that this will mean a decrease of 180,000 bales in the clip of wool for the present year as compared with that of 1895.

Prize Winning Shorthorn Calves.

SIR,—Under this head, in your issue of 2nd inst., appears a letter from the Messrs. Nicholson, of Sylvan, Ont., referring to calf prizes at London last fall.

Our reply is that, we were led to believe, by a gentleman who is well up in Shorthorn matters, that Rantin Robin's calves secured all the good prizes at London; in fact, he told us so, and when writing stock notes to your valuable paper we made the statement as we got it, without taking the trouble to verify it. If we were wrong we beg to apologize to the Messrs. Nicholson for seemingly attempting to rob them of their honors, and would say we would not knowingly do so, notwithstanding the insinuation of these gentlemen. If they had been good enough to draw our attention to the error we should have been much obliged, and would gladly have made an apology as publicly as we made the statement of which they complain. We have now learned, however, that it is necessary to look up the records before laying claim to any honors for cattle, and would plead as a final excuse that we have not as much time to devote to this as some of our fellow breeders.

H. CARGILL & SON.

Dehorning Calves.

Jas. Milliken, Reeton, Man., in renewing his subscription and expressing his satisfaction with the ADVOCATE, takes occasion to comment as follows on Mr. Thos. Baty's successful method of dehorning calves, described in our Feb. 1st issue:—
"Reading over Mr. Baty's account of dehorning brought to my mind the method I had seen employed 50 years ago, in Berwickshire, Scotland: calves three or four days old were effectually dehorned by simply cutting or scraping with a sharp knife the top off the little horn button and then touching it with a red-hot iron. I have never performed the operation myself; but I think it a good practice for lazy people, who can't take the trouble to tie up their cattle and feed and bed them properly."

FARM.

Corn for the Silo.

BY E. D. TILSON.

My first experience in growing ensilage corn was about fifteen years ago, by sowing common Western Dent corn broadcast by hand. This method proved to be more favorable to weed growing than corn production, either for the silo or soiling. In times of drouth the corn would wilt and nearly die, while the weeds kept on flourishing. After two years I changed my method by planting in rows 30 inches apart and hills 12 inches apart in the row. I made a cheap sled, with four or five runners 30 inches apart, five feet long, of 1½-inch boards, nailing two inch boards across the top for stays. To this I fastened an old wagon-tongue, which completed a cheap and satisfactory marker. In the marks made by these runners I dropped the seed by hand in hills 12 inches apart, and covered it with a hoe. After two or three years I used hand corn planters, which dropped and covered at the same time. After the corn was up I kept the ground clean by hand-hoes and horse-scuttlers. In this way I thought I was getting very fair crops of 15 tons per acre from common Western Yellow Dent seed. I then tried the Mammoth Southern Sweet variety, which increased the crop four tons per acre. In a few years I tried planting one-half of my field in rows 36 inches apart and hills 16 inches apart in the rows. (Up to this time our corn had few ears.) I found upon weighing this crop at harvest time that the crop grown the old way gave 19 tons per acre, while the portion planted the new way—wider apart—produced 21 tons per acre, bearing quite a lot of ears matured to the roasting stage. The stalks were larger and the ensilage better. The following year I planted some rows 40 inches apart, with hills 18 inches. At harvest time the widely-grown corn gave a little more weight off an acre, while the corn was still better—having a lot of glazed ears. I have ever since continued to plant in this way. Last year we grew 1,000 tons of ensilage corn on 50 acres, which cost when put in the silo, \$1 per ton. The Mammoth Southern Sweet and the Yellow Leaming Dent were the sorts grown, and each produced about the same yield.

A Good Word for Weeds.

SIR,—Prof. J. Hoyes Panton, in your issue of March 2nd, gives us some valuable instruction in relation to weeds, and on the importance of water to plant-life. We cannot become too wide-awake in both these branches, but do not let us get over-prejudiced against the small weeds.

I have noticed that seedlings, such as carrots, turnips, etc., flourished in weeds when very small, and outstripped those parts of the field where there were no weeds, during a time of drought. Have also seen strawberries hold on better, in time of drought, where weeds were mixed with them than where they were clean, much as I dislike the former state.

R. W. WETMORE.

King's Co., N. B.

SEED TIME COMING.

Our Annual Seed Report from the Experimental Union, Dominion Experimental Farm, and Representative Farmers.

SPRING GRAINS, NEW VARIETIES, ROOTS, CORN, RAPE, CLOVERS, PERMANENT PASTURES, AND SUPPLEMENTARY FOODS.

The season is now ripe for farmers to decide what sorts of grain, fodder, and roots to sow for the coming season. We have succeeded in collecting much data which will, we trust, enable many readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE to grow much larger crops than they have been accustomed to produce. As will be noticed, we have extended our enquiries in several new directions, which, we trust, will be of value:—

- (1) Will you be good enough to write us what varieties of oats, barley, peas, spring wheat, buckwheat, beans, and millet did best in your vicinity last year? Also tell us what sorts of potatoes, turnips, mangels, and carrots have proved most satisfactory in your district. Please write of the varieties in the order named.
- (2) Did you try any new varieties of grain, corn, potatoes, or roots last year? If so, what were their names and the results?
- (3) What varieties of corn did best in your locality for ear corn, and for fodder, or for the silo?
- (4) What crops have been most helpful for extra summer and early fall feeding of dairy cows or other stock?
- (5) What has been the experience, if any, in your district in growing rape and feeding it to sheep and other animals?
- (6) What varieties of clover and grasses have been found best suited to your locality?
- (7) Have permanent pastures been tried in your district, and with what results? Also what varieties of grasses and clovers were used therefor?

THE EXPERIMENTAL UNION.

That excellent organization, the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union, has for its object the testing of many of the best known varieties of farm crops over the entire Province, in all sorts and conditions of soils. The following tables show the result of different varieties, quantity of straw and grain, and comparative value.

PRAS.				
Variety.	Comparative Value.	Straw. Tons.	Grain. Bush.	
Mummeys	85	1.2	24.3	
Prussian Blue	100	1.1	24.2	
White Marrowfat	82	1.1	22.5	
Canadian Beauty	94	1.1	21.1	
OATS.				
Siberian	100	1.6	57.1	
Bavarian	74	1.6	54.9	
Joanette Black	82	1.4	54.9	
Oderbruck	82	1.4	54.3	
Imp. Besthorn	70	1.5	54.1	
Poland White	77	1.4	53.9	
BARLEY.				
Mandscheuri	100	1.1	35.3	
Oderbrucker	84	1.2	29.7	
Two-rowed Italian	71	1.2	29.6	
Guy Mayle	53	1.2	28.1	
Kinnakulla	31	1.2	25.4	
SPRING WHEAT.				
Harrison's Bearded	100	1.3	20.5	
Red Fern	96	1.6	17.5	
Pringle's Champion	83	1.4	16.7	
Bart Tremenis	52	1.4	16.4	
Haynes Bluestem	67	1.5	15.8	
POTATOES.				
Variety.	Table Quality.	Per Cent. Marketable.	Per Acre. Bush.	
Empire State	94	93	205.1	
Freeman	87	91	204.7	
American Wonder	79	92	196.0	
Pearl of Savoy	87	93	189.4	
Summit	86	91	181.3	
Burpee's Extra Early	100	88	165.6	
CARROTS.				
Variety.	Av. Weight.	1895.	3 Yrs.	
Improved Short White	1.4	1086.6	1015	
Large White Vosges	1.4	801.4	880.5	
Large White Belgian	1.0	828.4	850.9	
Guerranda	1.0	770.3	733.1	
Danvers Orange	.9	754.1	732.1	
MANGELS.				
Variety.	Average Weight.	Bush. per Acre.		
Improved Mammoth Sawlog	4.4	1284.6		
Improved Long Red	4.8	1258.7		
Carter's W. Orange Globe	3.2	980.6		
Carter's Champion Yellow Intermediate	3.7	953.7		
White Silesian Sugar Beet	3.1	857.9		
TURNIPS.				
Greystone (fall)	2.8	1114.4		
Jersey Navet (fall)	2.5	1039.2		
Carter's Elephant (Swede)	2.3	961.5		
Hartley's Bronze-top (Swede)	2.2	961.4		
Marshall's Purple-top (Swede)	2.0	903.3		
Jersey Navet, very firm and of good quality.				
SILAGE CORN.				
VARIETY.	Condition at O. A. C. Sept. 5th, for 3 years.	Height.	Tons of Ears.	Yield per Acre.
Cloud's Early Yellow	late milk	103	4	17.1
Rural Thoroughbred W. Flint	milk	92	3.4	16.1
Mammoth Cuban	firm dough	99	4.2	15.6
Imp. Leaming	ripe	96	3.7	14.9
Salzer's North Dakota	ripe	82	3.6	12.4
Compton's Early	ripe	72	3.3	11.2

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