

Our Scottish Letter.

September is the busiest month in the year in respect of sales of stock, and the trade in all kinds during the past month has been satisfactory. There has been an absence of sensational prices in any department, but there has been an excellent selling trade all round and business has seldom been better for good commercial stock of any kind. The best trade for all parties is a solid, level commercial trade, leaving a good profit to the breeder and the prospect of some profit, with the improvement of the animal, to the buyer. The leading trade among cattle has been in the Aberdeen-Angus breed, and certainly the lovers of the blackskins have no reason to complain of the values put upon their stock by owners both north and south. There are herds of black Polled cattle everywhere now, and the past month has seen quite as good trade for them in the extreme south of England as in the north-east of

castle-on-Tyne, for a yearling heifer in the lot of Mr. Arch. Whyte. One of the Hayston cows made £106 1s., to Mr. Shaw Adamson, of Careston Castle; and a like figure (101 gs.) was paid by Mr. Kennedy, Doonholm, Ayr, for one of the two-year-old heifers from Spott. The high level of the heifers in this lot may be understood from the fact that nine two-year-olds made the fine average of £63 11s. 8d., and eight yearlings, £52 2s. 1d. The most extraordinary feature in this sale is the fact that at no time during its long, unbroken history of more than half a century has the Spott herd, of which the others are offshoots, been headed by a bull costing even as high as £50. Mr. Whyte is a first-class judge, and his sons run him hard in the same respect. Their "herd-headers" have been bought with rare skill and discrimination, as the above summary abundantly proves. At present the stock bull at Inverquhar is Melville Castle. He was bought at Perth, an undersized, poorly-milked calf, for £23. He is one

of the best breeding bulls in the breed today. Like many another good one, he was bred by Mr. Smith, Powrie, Dundee, from whose herd a draft was sold on the previous day. The 16 head, which were all females except one bull calf, made an average of £29 1s. 5d. On the same day 38 head were sold from Mr. McIntosh's herd, at Balquharn, at an average of £21 16s. 7d.; and nine head—cows and heifers only—were sold from the Careston Castle herd of Mr. Shaw Adamson, at £28 14s. Similarly, eight head from the Earl of Airlie's herd, at Cortachy, made £28 7s.; and nine from one of the oldest and best herds in Scotland, that of Mr. Patrick Chalmers, of Aldbar,

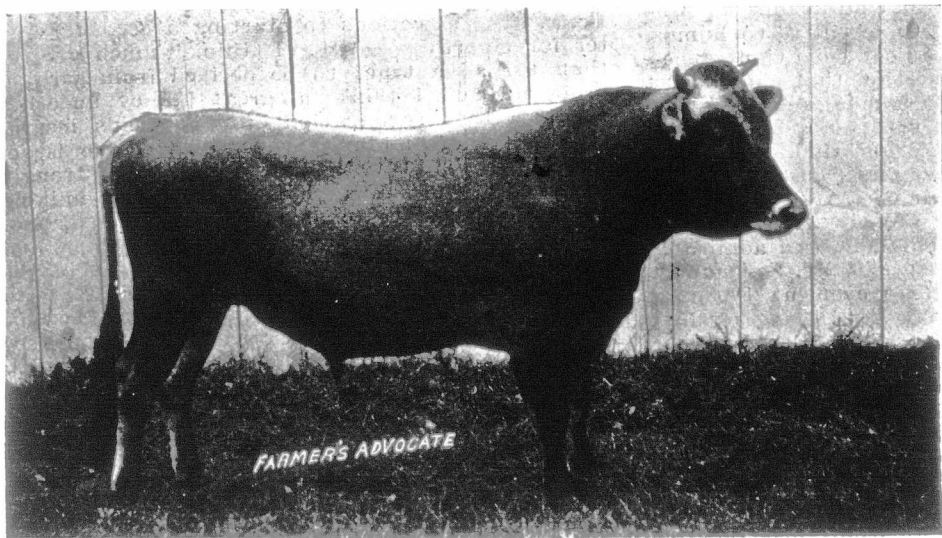
reasons have been advanced to account for this drop in public estimation of a flock which held undisputed supremacy for a long series of years. Perhaps the most reliable is that the Mertoun (Lord Polwarth's) rams have been bred too long in one particular way. His Lordship never buys a ram or a ewe, and the flock is thus always recruited from within itself. It is doubtful if this can be done indefinitely, and although it used to be thought that Lord Polwarth had solved the problem, it is proved now that he has not. An eminent firm of breeders of Blackface sheep, with a much larger flock to draw upon than Lord Polwarth, carried on this policy with much success for a long time. At length this breed began to decay. There was not the same demand for this class of sheep, and it was recognized by those responsible that the plan of keeping the tribe self-contained had gone far enough. They, therefore, openly purchased sires in the best markets, and this year they have a good trade with the produce of these in-bought sires. Therefore, alike with cattle and with sheep, the lesson is being taught, and that in the hard school of experience, that line-breeding can only be followed within certain limits, and outside of these the results may be disastrous.

Great activity prevails amongst those who are in favor of repealing the law prohibiting the importation of Canadian store cattle, and meetings have been held in Perth and elsewhere in support of this movement. A conference is to be held in Edinburgh on the 9th of October, with the President of the Board of Agriculture, Mr. Hanbury, when he will be urged to undertake the repeal of the statute which makes slaughter at the ports compulsory. Certainly the zeal of those who are carrying on the agitation deserves success, but it may be doubted whether that will come.

Sept. 28th, 1901.

Supports Koch's Position.

The Times correspondent, writing from Berlin, says: The Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift publishes an interesting paper by Professor Baumgarten, of Tübingen, in support of the theory that bovine tuberculosis is not transmissible to human beings. Professor Baumgarten, who shares with Professor Koch the honor of having discovered the tuberculosis bacillus, and who has made a special study of the disease, describes a series of experiments made by a Dr. Rotikansky some twenty years ago. Dr. Rotikansky, who was working in a hospital of which Professor Baumgarten was surgeon, had charge of patients who were suffering from incurable tumors, and whose deaths were only a matter of time. He hit upon the idea that, as cancer and tuberculosis seemed at that time to be mutually exclusive diseases, it might be possible to cure his patients by inoculating them with tuberculosis germs. He proceeded to make the experiment, using large quantities of bacilli from tuberculous cattle. No results, however, were obtained, and



CHAMPION OF BURNSIDE.

First-prize yearling Jersey bull at the Western Fair, London, Ont., 1901.
PROPERTY OF J. A. LAWSON, NILESTOWN, ONT.

Scotland. Mr. Bridges, of Fedderate, owns land both in Aberdeenshire and in Sussex, and many years ago, impressed with the excellence of the cattle on his northern estate, he founded a small herd of black Polled cattle in the south. He had a sale in the last week of August, when he disposed of 44 head of surplus stock, for which he received the useful average of £28 2s. 11d. apiece. He got 180 gs., or £180, for a yearling bull named Darlington, from one of his neighbors, and it shows what can be done with the breed that this bull is regarded as perhaps the best of his age at the present time. The gentleman who bought him, Mr. Batchelor, is a beginner at the business, but he is determined to have good ones, and is likely to succeed. The great difficulty cattle-breeders have to contend against in Sussex and Kent is drought. There was scarcely any rain down there during the summer, but there was, happily, plenty of spring water. This, of course, had to be pumped and carried to the cattle, but when so dealt with it is wonderful how cattle can be brought through even in such a season as last. The next notable sale of black cattle took place a good way north of Sussex, but still in England. Mr. Arthur Egginton, South Ella, Hull, in Yorkshire, has had a choice herd of A.-A. cattle for about fifteen years, and has bred several high-class show animals. He resolved to give up his herd, and it was dispersed on the 12th inst. The event was attended with great success, and an average of £12 2s. 8d. was obtained for 47 animals of all ages and both sexes. The cows were highly bred, a large proportion belonging to the famed Erica tribe, and the average price for 15 of them was £52 8s. 7d. One of them, Equalize 25327, went to Ballindallock at 130 gs., or £130 10s., and to the same famous herd went a yearling heifer, named Equidora 28949, at 100 gs., or £105. A capital breeding bull, named Mailboy 13637, in spite of his six years, was secured by one of the Sussex breeders, Mr. Schroeter, at £126, and a bull calf got by this sire went north to Dalmore, in Ross-shire, at £110 5s. These prices leave nothing to be desired, and show that much must be done to protect herds built up at such cost.

The final series of black Polled sales took place a week later in Scotland—at several of the best herds in Angus and Banffshire. The phenomenal sale of the series was held on the second day at Hatton of Eassie, in the fertile vale of Strathmore, when representatives of the three herds owned by Mr. William Whyte, Spott, and his two sons, were disposed of without reserve. All the 52 animals sold were females, and the average overhead was £50 6s. 4d., an extraordinary figure, considering that the constituents of the sale were 14 cows at an average of £44 6s. 6d., 17 two-year-old heifers at £58 6s. 1d., 16 yearling heifers at £53 18s. 10d., and 5 heifer calves at £28 7s. Mr. Arch. Whyte, Inverquhar, Kirriemuir, sold 23 head at £45 3d.; Mr. James Whyte, Hayston, 12 head at £49 7s.; and Mr. William Whyte, Spott, the father, 17 heifers at £58 3s. 7d. The highest price of the day was 120 gs., or £120, received by Mr. James Whyte for the two-year-old heifer, Ida VI. of Lednock 28102. She went to Great Marlow, Bucks, to join the herd of Mr. Hudson, at Danesfield. The next best price was £110 5s., paid by Mr. Bainbridge, from New-

made £30 11s. 4d. The sale on the day following that at Hatton of Eassie was held at Tochnieal, in Banffshire, when very good trade was again experienced.

Contemporaneously with these sales of black cattle, there has been a considerable number of sales of Shorthorns in the north of England, but the averages have been much tamer than those quoted. Forty-one cows and heifers at a sale held by Lord Brougham and Vaux, at Brougham Hall, near Penrith, drew an average of £30 19s. 9d., and 11 bulls made £49 8s. 11d. There was a good attendance at this sale, and several animals were bought for His Majesty the King. The next sale in the same district did not turn out so well. The average for 48 cows and heifers was only £23 12s., and twelve bulls averaged but £16 6s. 6d. These were nearly all cattle of Booth breeding, with perhaps an occasional dash of Bates blood entering into the composition of some of them. A much more significant sale still was held a week later at Underley, which used to be the home of one of the greatest herds of Bates cattle in the world. Fifty-five head of the stock sold, not now pure Bates, but mixed with almost everything in the Shorthorn way, except Scottish or Cruickshank blood, made an average of £27. There could be no more eloquent testimony to the changed conditions of cattle-breeding in this country than these figures; and while sympathy must be felt for breeders reared in particular schools, who cannot abandon the prejudices of a lifetime, the evidence is conclusive that without the thick-fleshed, stout, short-legged cattle from the north, it is not now possible to breed Shorthorns profitably. Men will have to abandon these predilections, and then they will be more prosperous financially than they are ever likely to become by adhering to an exploded cult.

This lesson has also been taught at the great Border Leicester ram sales at Kelso. Formerly these sales were characterized by the undisputed dominance of the rams bred and exposed by Lord Polwarth. The best pedigree for a Border Leicester tup was simply: sire a Polwarth ram. Two years ago there came a change; the tups sent in by His Lordship did not take the market and suffered a severe drop. Last year they made a recovery, but this year, in place of the wonted supremacy—Polwarth first and the rest nowhere—it was a case of singing "We're a' John Tamson's Bairsns." The highest average was made by a Forfarshire breeder, Mr. David Hume, Barrellwell, Brechin, whose ten made the respectable average of £30 13s.; and the next best was the Messrs. Smith's lot of 24, from Leaston, in E. Lothian. Their average was £25 6s. 8d., and they sold one ram at £122. Lord Polwarth's average for 32 was £15 18s. 8d., a fall of £12 as compared with the price made last year. Various



BLOOMING HEATHER 2ND

Sire Imp. Blue Ribbon = 17085 =; dam Heather Blossom = 26500 =, from Imp. Charlotte by Gravesend. Shorthorn heifer calf to be sold at the dispersion of the herd of A. & D. Brown, Jona, Ont., November 12th, 1901.

none of the patients became infected with the disease, although some of them survived the experiment for several months.

Professor Baumgarten regards this as positive proof that bovine tuberculosis is not transmissible to human beings. He does not, however, follow Professor Koch in holding that the two diseases are essentially different, but believes that the tuberculosis bacilli suffer modifications in the bodies which they inhabit, and that these modifications are different in human beings and in the various animals. Bacilli which have accommodated themselves to the organisms of the lower animals become comparatively innocuous to man. He does not regard tuberculosis in cattle as constituting a great danger to human health, but does not think it would be wise to do away with the precautions which are now taken to prevent the spread of the disease by milk and butter.