

good horses will realize £600 or £700 with reservation of a few mares, while a good average horse will nett. his owner from £300 to £400. Tenant farmers are realizing the advantages of pedigree, particularly when it can frequently double or treble, or perhaps quadruple, the value

but, at the end of last month a two-year-old filly realized 400 guineas, a yearling 260 and a three-year-old some 310 guineas, so that there are plenty of buyers yet for the very best class of stock. The ordinary commercial market has not been affected to any material extent. Prices

reserve for the young stallion cup at the last Shire Show. He is always seen at his best on parade. A Shire mare that had many supporters in her day was "Monks Polly," which got so far as to be reserve for the championship in London. This mare was sold at the late Mr. Bryars' sale at the back-end of the year, and made a very good figure, some 250 guineas, I think. She is of the old Lincolnshire color—grey—which is a very sound Shire color, and a very wearing one. A filly which will doubtless produce a sensation before she finishes, is Sir Albert Muntz's "Dunsmore Fuchsia." This filly has had an unbroken series of successes as a two-year-old, and it will be interesting to watch her career. She is one of the biggest three-year-olds that have entered the show ring. This, by the way, is a point upon which I might have remarked, that the Shire horse is a very early maturing breed. Its yearlings are as a rule as big as Clydesdale three-year-olds, and an animal reaches practically full-growth when it is four years old.

These are a few cursory remarks which I have thrown together, and if they may add anything to colonial knowledge of what Shire horses are, or induce any colonist to give a second thought to the advantages which a Shire stallion offers, I shall feel well rewarded.

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(Mr. Gibson has been manager for the late Philo Mill's studs, flocks and herds, and last fall went to Buenos Ayres to judge the Shorthorns at the big exhibition in the Argentina. Previous to his taking charge at Ruddington, Mr. Gibson was a very successful exhibitor of Shires and Yorkshires.—Ed.)



A CHAMPION SHIRE MARE, SOLACE, OWNED BY LORD ROTHSCHILD.

of a foal at very little extra initial cost in the service fee. That the pedigree movement has been effective may be realized from the fact that the owner of "screws" is finding it more difficult annually to keep his rounds.

THE EXPORT TRADE IN SHIRES.

I now come to the question of the foreign trade, that is to say, the export trade in Shire horses. Much attention has been devoted to this question within the past twelve months. The reason for this is that in the past the export trade has been conducted on an extremely unsatisfactory basis, so far as the breed is concerned and with regard to its future. For so many years the prices realized at public auction for Shire horses have been so high, that the foreigner was afraid to spring to these figures in the hope of turning a profit. The Shire, moreover, had to compete with such powerful rivals as the Clydesdale and the Percheron, and as these could always be acquired at smaller figures, the export trade seemed to migrate largely into their hands. Breeders, however, are awakening to the fact that a very good market has not altogether been lost, but seriously neglected. There has, as I have said, been a good reason for this, because the home market took up practically all that the farmer could breed, and snapped them up readily at prices which the foreigner would not pay. There has, however, been a slackening of demand as reflected in the high prices, and although fillies can still run to 400 guineas at two years old, and mares to somewhat over that figure, yet the generality of these prices are probably about 40 per cent. smaller than was the case, say five years ago. Naturally breeders are looking to new markets, and the export trade immediately suggests itself. It is receiving much attention at the present time, and I have every reason to think that before long some combined action will be taken on the part of breeders to show to the American buyer the type of Shire horse which we are producing in England. Eighty or ninety per cent. of the horses exported have been the merest travesties of what we call good Shire horses in England, and on that account the foreign rearer of draught horses has not, unless he has personally inspected our studs, a proper idea of the aims and accomplishments of English Shire breeders. We have plenty of horses and an abundance of mares and fillies of the type which the States and Canada demand, and if foreigners will only come to pay our prices, they shall in return have much the weightiest horses that can be produced, and meet a readier market for their produce. There are two suggestions in front of breeders at the present time. One is to send out a selection of really good Shires to compete at the Canadian and States Fairs, and the other that foreigners and colonial visitors should be induced to pay the leading English show yards a visit in quest of good stud horses. I have remarked that trade was not so good as it was three or four years ago,

may be a little lower, but geldings of the right sort can still realize at five years old in the neighbourhood of three figures.

A few comments upon the leading show yard animals of the day will be of interest, doubtless, to your readers. The accompanying illustrations may serve to convey to your readers some idea of what the modern Shire is really like. I might naturally begin with the champion stallion at last London Spring Show, "Girton Charmer," owned by Lord Rothschild. He is a remarkably handsome horse, with so much substance combined with quality, and so far as weight is concerned he typifies the modern style of Shire horse. He has had a very successful career, and being still on the youthful side of his future, will be watched with much interest. A very fine type of mare that was champion in London a year or two ago was the mare "Solace," also owned by Lord Rothschild. She has bred uncommonly well, and was acquired at a sale of Shires held by His Majesty, the King. She is a fine type of brood mare, as her portrait will lead the reader to understand, and for quality and stylishness would be very hard indeed to beat. An example three year old when the photograph was taken, which exemplifies the active type of Shire, is Mr. Chas. Bell's "Norley Advance," which was

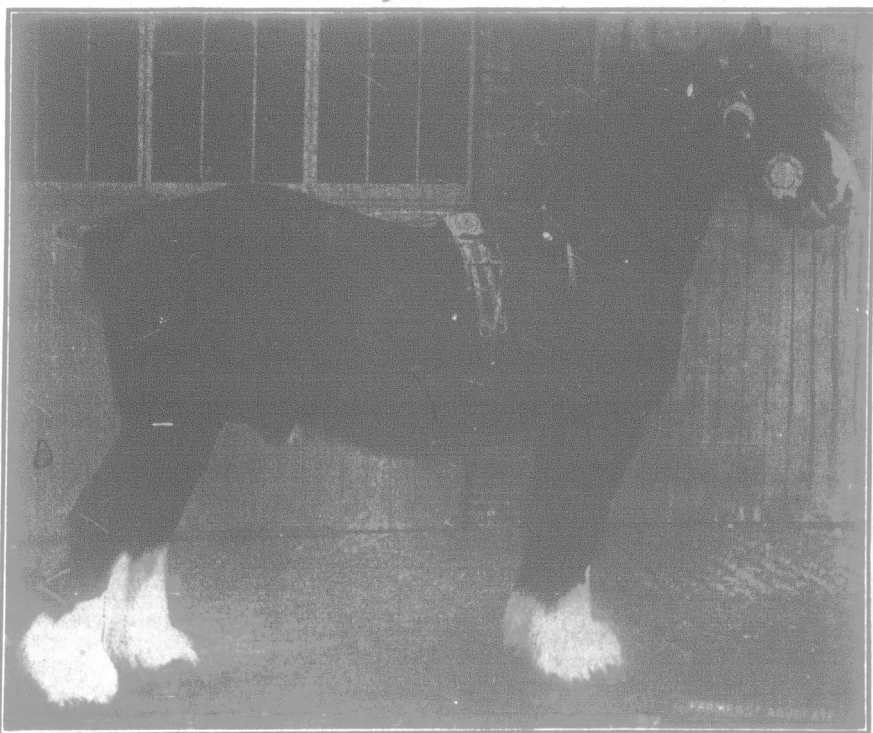
A Suggestion re Stock Judging Demonstrations.

Some time ago a stock judging lesson was given in the agricultural hall, Saltcoats. I did not arrive until it was partly over; the place was well filled with people wishing to learn the points of the horse, but there was only a small portion of those could see the different parts as they came up. Generally it is those that think they know that take the score cards and crowd around the animal; hiding from sight the very points those that do not know ought to be able to see. Would it not be better if the instruction was given in the way of a lecture instead of the scoring card? Let the gentlemen appointed take the animal into the middle of the floor, point out all the good points the animal possesses, also point out all the weak points at the same time, and explain what is needed to improve those weak points.

ONLOOKER.

Inter-Western Pacific Prize List.

The prize list of the above association which holds its annual exhibition at Calgary, July 10, 11 and 12, is just to hand. The horse sections have some good



A LONDON SHIRE SHOW CHAMPION, GIRTON CHARMER, OWNED BY LORD ROTHSCHILD.

of another type of horse is Messrs. Forshaw's "Raydon Duke," a very deep-bodied, close-coupled horse, with a lot of "stuff"; he was the class (four year and over) prize winner at the Shire Show. Another young horse, being only

money prizes and this year a gold medal by the Clydesdale Society of Great Britain for the best Clydesdale mare any age. In such a noted horse breeding country, it is good to note the encouragement shown the industry.