

the third; and a nice blend of all three on the concluding day, did not constitute at all pleasant atmospheric conditions. In spite of all, the attendance was well maintained, being representative of all parts of Ireland, as well as including a large number of welcome visitors from England, Scotland and Wales. The entries of stock received were of a record nature, the great outstanding feature, as usual, being the Shorthorns, of which no fewer than 633 head were entered. The Aberdeen-Angus came next, with 159, and Herefords had 100 representatives—these being our three principal breeds. The other sections were of smaller size, viz.: Jerseys, 59; Kerries and Dexters (our two native varieties), 42 and 44, respectively, etc., etc. All told, the number of cattle entered amounted to 1,051, as compared with 1,633 in the previous year.

This show is especially important to the cattle industry of the country, by reason of the fact that at it each season a number of bulls are selected by the Department for service premiums, under their improvement schemes, and this time 153 Shorthorns, 40 Aberdeen-Angus and 24 Herefords were chosen. To assist farmers who wish to buy one of these premium bulls, but who might be unable to produce the money straight away, a system of loans has been arranged by the Department, and it is interesting to mention that over 50 of these loans were granted during the week for the purchase of yearlings. It is also very gratifying to state that, since this scheme was started, there has been no default in the case of a loan, though some were given to men in very humble circumstances. The arrangement is as follows: The farmer selected by the County Committee to keep a premium bull makes application to the Department for a loan (if he requires it). He pays down one-third of the price of the bull, with a fee of five per cent. to insure it for twelve months, and he is allowed two years to pay off the outstanding two-thirds of the purchase money, interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. being charged, and two sureties guaranteeing the repayment.

In connection with the idea of buying and selling, it may here be mentioned that this year a new and successful departure was made in introducing an auction sale at the show. No less than between four and five hundred head were entered, and though many were not disposed of, some of them realized very fine prices, especially among the Shorthorns, thanks to the operations of Mr. MacLennan, the well-known Argentine exporter, to whom the Scottish sales were forbidden ground this season, by reason of the disease outbreak. Mr. MacLennan bought two bulls from Mr. H. J. C. Toler Aylward, Co. Kilkenny, at 230 guineas each, viz., Diamond Prince and Diamond Lord, both by the well-known prize bull, Diamond Link, and first and second prizewinners, respectively, in the senior two-year-old class. At 170 guineas, he bought Mr. J. Bonis's Orphan's Diamond Royal, a third-prize yearling; at 160 gs. each, the Rev. J. Hall's Gold Leaf, and Mr. G. Dickson's Mile-cross General, the latter a third-prize two-year-old; and among the other lots which he secured were some at 130 gs., 100 gs., and several at smaller sums. For the Earl of Caledon's Caledon Courier, which won a first prize, Sir A. Stepney, Bart., of Wales, gave 210 gs. The best price for Herefords was 46 gs., and for the polled Blacks, 65 gs.

Shorthorns.—Shorthorns were given a number of extra classes, so that, instead of having two for yearling bulls, as before, separate provision was made for animals calved in each individual month, viz., January, February, March, April and May, 1907. Greater uniformity of size was secured by this elaborate arrangement of the younger sires. Among two-year-olds, three classes were given, instead of two, and there was the usual aged division. None of the Shorthorns were of sensational merit, and the absence of cross-channel plums was felt. There was, however, a very good level reached, and many shapely, sappy sires were found in all classes, especially among the aged bulls. Two-year-olds were hardly so free from weaklings as in other years, but some very promising animals appeared among the yearlings. The Challoner Plate, which indicates the championship, was won by Mr. B. H. Barton, of Strathfarnham, for the five-year-old roan, Scottish Boy, a heavily and evenly-fleshed bull, of much quality, and a first-rate one to handle, while his noble crest and grand Shorthorn head, and beautifully-turned back-end, made him a stylish cut of champion. Reserve for this trophy was Mr. Toler Aylward's two-year-old Diamond Prince, above referred to. He is a well-ribbed and topped roan, combining grand substance with nice quality. The Challenge Cup for the best yearling was awarded to the Earl of Caledon's Caledon Model, a very handsome, level roan, reserve to which was placed the same owner's Caledon Courtier, a half-brother to Model. Mr. B. H. Barton won the Challenge Cup for the best group of Shorthorns, and the Earl of Caledon the Cup for the best three Shorthorn bulls. Among females of this breed, Sir H. H. Smiley, Bart., Earl of Bessborough, and Mr. B. H. Barton were the owners of the first-prize animals, the second named having the cup for the best pair of yearlings. Among the cows

and heifers quality was much in evidence. Mr. Wm. Duthie, of Collynie, acted as referee, and the other judges of the Shorthorns were, Messrs. T. H. Hutchinson, Yorks; J. McWilliam, Garbity; Geo. Campbell, Aberdeenshire; and C. H. Jolliffe, Darlington. In addition to the exhibitors already named, the leading class winners included the following: Lord Carew, Co. Wexford; Miss Staples, Queen's Co.; J. Welsh, Co. Monaghan; W. C. Brown, Co. Tyrone; T. Porter, Co. Tyrone; F. Miller, Birkenhead; Wm. McDermott.

Herefords.—While Shorthorns are pushing ahead, these great white-face beef-producers are only "marking time" in Ireland. They admirably suit the rich grazing lands of the center of our island, but their deficiency as dairy cattle tells against their general advance. The display at Ballsbridge this week was not so impressive as on some previous occasions, when English exhibitors, including His Majesty the King, sent over some rare specimens. However, the home herds acquitted themselves rightly, and forwarded animals quite as good as if not better than at other times. The representatives of the late E. T. Dames-Longworth were very prominent, and two of the Challenge Cups were won by one of them, a very typical, evenly-balanced yearling, named Minotaur, while this bull also made one of the trio that secured the Cup for groups. Major Hamilton, Co. Cavan; Mrs. Nugent, Co. Westmeath; Major Hillas, Co. Sligo; and last, but not least, Col. Everard, Co. Meath, were the most successful of the other exhibitors.

Aberdeen-Angus.—This increasingly popular breed has a good way to go before it ousts the Shorthorn; indeed, the prospect of such ever taking place is too remote to be entertained seriously—under our present conditions. Still, its

were some interesting displays, particularly of the first named, of which some fine typical specimens are kept by Irish breeders. Of those that won prizes, Messrs. E. Bewley, M. O'Neill, G. R. Swaine, and Mrs. Madden, might be named.

If space permitted, I should have liked to refer to the classes of agricultural horses (including Shires and Clydesdales), of Hackneys, Polo Ponies and Hunter stallions. Also of pigs, both black and white; of butter and other dairy produce, and to the splendid array of machinery and implements shown through the halls, galleries and about the grounds. But I fear I have already exhausted the room which the editor can devote to this big event, which possesses interest for all Irishmen in Canada, and doubtless many others as well.

"EMERALD ISLE."

SELLING STOCK BY LETTER.

It is generally advisable, in buying breeding stock, to visit the herd or flock and make one's selections in person, where one may not only see the animal he chooses, but also its sire and dam and family connections, and judge of its suitability to his purpose, and of the probabilities of its breeding true to the approved type. But when, owing to distance, or other reasons, this is not convenient or practicable, one may, by correspondence with a breeder of good reputation, secure very suitable animals, and, as a matter of fact, a very large volume of business, in the aggregate, is transacted in this way, with, on the whole, very satisfactory results. In order to do this, the breeder who advertises his stock for sale should realize that not only his reputation, but his honor and character, are at stake in the transaction of business where he has the advantage of "the party of the second part," inasmuch as he sees and knows the quality of the animal he describes and prices, while the buyer trusts him to do the square thing in the deal. And, for the sake of his own reputation, if for no higher reason, the seller should deal justly with the man who trusts him. As a rule, we believe breeders do act on this principle, and are more particular in giving the buyer good value for his money when so trusted than when the selection is made in person, and on the buyer's own responsibility. There may be, and doubtless are, dishonorable exceptions to this rule, cases in which the seller considers only his own present gain,

and ships an animal he knows is not equal to the description given; but such a man is unworthy of the name of breeder or business man, and is as sure to get into trouble as if he were looking for it. And he deserves nothing better, but will soon lose the respect and confidence of the public, and any good reputation he may have had.

In conducting business by correspondence, the breeder should promptly answer letters of inquiry, whether he can supply the class of animal wanted or not. Undue delay in replying to letters indicates a serious lack of business ability and methods, and will lose a man trade very quickly, for it is probable that the inquirer has written more than one breeder, and may have given his order to one replying promptly, before some of the others are heard from. Replies should state clearly the description of the animal, its breeding, and the price and terms of shipment. A copy of the letter written, or at least a memorandum of the contents, should in every case be kept on file. The business way is to use a copying press, which is not expensive; but, in the absence of this, a very good plan is to write on the back of each letter the name and address of the inquirer, the name of the animal priced, or at least of its sire and dam, and date of birth, the price and terms, and file the letters with others in a rubber band or a string, so that it may be conveniently referred to, in order that the contract may be fulfilled to the letter in every respect, in case a bargain is closed. There should in every such case be a clear statement and a fair understanding as to furnishing the buyer with a registered pedigree and transfer, either at the expense of the seller or the buyer, and a business man who recognizes the justice of the golden rule, of doing as he would



Lady Hope of Ridgewood.

To be sold in Shorthorn dispersion sale of A. D. McGugan, Rodney, Ont.

progress as a beef breed is satisfactory to its admirers, and its influence in this capacity is freely admitted to be very serviceable. As with Shorthorns, the classification for "the doddies" was elaborated this year among the younger bulls. There were bigger entries of the breed, and better quality was shown by the animals than formerly. Mr. Hum Bland, of Co. Wicklow, an ardent Aberdeen-Angus supporter, won, with a fine team, no less than five first prizes, and also the Queen Victoria Cup for groups, but the individual championship went to M. C. Dunbar-Buller, Co. Down, for Elf King of Droagh, a three-year-old bull of great scale and splendid furnishing everywhere over his massive frame. He is not a particularly stylish bull, but his girth and roasts are enormous, and he is very evenly covered. Sir J. F. Dillon, Co. Meath, was the winner of the Cup for the best pair of heifers, with two very sweet blacks. The other leading prize-takers included Earl of Bessborough; A. J. Owen, Queen's Co.; F. J. Robb, Belfast; E. J. Beaumont, Nesbitt.

Kerries and Dexters.—Both our native breeds made capital displays. The first named are capital milkers, and, on the score of thriftiness, are without rivals among any of the present-day varieties. The little Dexters are more of the beefy type, and enjoy great popularity. They have been aptly described as "Shorthorns seen through the wrong end of a telescope." The chief prize-takers were: Kerries—Mrs. Madden, Co. Dublin; Mr. G. G. Mahony, Co. Kerry; Pierce O'Mahony, Co. Wicklow; the Duke of Leinster; and D. M. Rattray, Co. Kerry. Dexters—D. M. Rattray, S. J. Henry, Dublin; S. J. Brown, Co. Kildare; W. S. Archdall, Co. Meath.

Other Breeds.—Of Jerseys and Ayrshires, there