

es have kept onth of Octortune to have anxious time. est on record. and farmers s had a sore ug be remem- as desperate stricts almost ry. The last overment, and ost has been ad very hard well on in the "led" but in five hours of re wrought a orkers, much After a week re is again a ve conditions Potato-lifting d weather of apid progress

RE rset, London ss divergence e hard, dry, avor in Scot- e. The kind ing that fills ession that he and a Scotch London show nd in the end other two—a e the lots for lish cheddars eaty" cheese, . One of the d us that the f made after wanted. If wanted, there d of making e how to pre- cheese with- The dairy rs have been alter their t result is in e of its long land transit, se competing home. Che- in ill-digested own bound in ense in mar- price in spite is put before

ISK linnings this place in the of depression cs of the pat- Cumberland 35 gs. for the ne buyer be- ead, the well At Haugh, in ne late Alex-) head of all e average of 70, 180, 150, for cows and indicate how erton was a a capital eye sion sale was om far and

realized for he afternoon to the actual In the fol- Duthie-Marr ear to Old- Mr. Duthie, each. Seven the famous

farm of Uppermill, made £70 16s., and seven heifer calves, also bred by Mr. Marr, drew an average of £31 13s. The highest prices for bull calves were 720, 700, 620, 480, 400 and 350 gs. The best calf in the sale was a white bull calf which would have made any price had his skin been red or roan. As it was, he made 350 gs. in spite of his white skin. The young three-year-old bull, Golden Promise, was the sire of most of the highest priced bull calves. The average for six got by him was £374 10s., and the average for nine got by the red bull, Jubilant, £254 16s. Golden Promise has been sold by Mr. Duthie for exportation to Buenos Ayres. He is of Augusta descent, and a marked feature of the sales this year has been the "run" on Augusta blood. The Augustas were reared by the late James Bruce, of Inverquhomery. He was a firm believer in them, yet it was not until after his death, which took place about ten years ago, that they sprang into popular favor, and they now share with the Clipper race the honors of first place among Aberdeenshire Shorthorns.

A joint sale was held at Newton-Insch, on the day following the Tillycairn sale. The weather was miserable in the extreme, yet there was a lively sale; 53 head of varying ages made the splendid average of £74 10s. 7d. 390 gs. were paid for a bull calf, and 300 gs. for a heifer calf. Another joint sale was held at Oldmeldrum, when a large number of choice cattle from tenant farmers' herds in Aberdeenshire were sold; 72 head on that occasion made £33 1s. 10d. Yet another joint sale was held at Aberdeen when 124 head made £39 10s. 5d. On the last day of the sales an adjournment was made to Inverness, where a good selection was offered from Ross-shire herds, and herds in Inverness-shire and neighboring counties. These are very healthy, choice cattle, and the results were that 92 head made £26 18s. 6d. The best average was made by Balnakyle, his figure being £55 8s. 9d. for five.

DECLINING POPULARITY OF THE OLD BREEDS.

By way of contrast the prices made for Highland cattle at the two great sales held at Stirling and Oban may be mentioned. At the former 52 head realized £13 9s. 9d., and at the latter £30 was the highest price realized. This was paid for a three-year-old heifer from Kilberry in Argyshire. The old breeds have no chance against the modern improved early maturity sorts.

DOES NITRATE FERTILIZING AFFECT SYSTEMS OF ANIMALS?

I don't know whether Canadians try to grow big crops of hay by administering doses of nitrate of soda to the crop. Here there is a wide difference of opinion as to whether hay dressed in such fashion sets up kidney trouble in stock, and especially in horses. Opinion is sharply divided, and no trials have been carried out conclusive enough to satisfy some stockowners

that such a top-dressing is injurious. Some years ago at a show of the Highland and Agricultural Society, certain valuable animals were seized with kidney trouble of some kind, and as a result, one prize Shorthorn bull died. The owner set up a claim for damages and maintained it was due to the hay supplied in the showyard, which was supposed to have been grown on a meadow dressed with nitrate of soda. The farmer who had the contract was well known to be a gentleman who cultivated his farm intensively, using large quantities of manure. It was taken for granted that he had dressed the hay with the suspicious Chilean manure. But the bottom went out of the theory when it was blandly indicated that knowing the prejudice, the farmer in this particular year had deliberately refrained from applying nitrate of soda to the hay. This was a fine case of the logical fallacy *post hoc, propter hoc*. In this case the nitrate was found "not guilty." All the same, there is a case for inquiry and exhaustive experiment, and in the end something may be learned that will be of use. Mr. Speir, of Newton, one of the best informed and most observant farmers in Scotland, is an out and out supporter of the application of nitrate of soda to the hay crop on land which is well manured and in good heart. The truth seems to be that in dealing with nitrate of soda as with all other manures, brains must be added to the chemical combination. A successful breeder of Blackface sheep was once asked at a public meeting whether the geological formation of the soil had not a good deal to do with the success of sheep farming? He admitted that it might be so "but far more depended on the geological formation of the sheep-raiser's head!" This aphorism applies to much more than sheep farming.

SUCCESSFUL CLYDESDALE SEASON

Talking about Clydesdales, we have had a wonderfully successful season, and exports have gone well over the thousand head for the year 1909 so far as it has gone. Recently there have been some auction sales at which useful averages have been realized. At the Seaham-Harbor foal sale eleven filly foals realized an average of £37 7s. 6d., and fifteen colt foals realized an average of £38 7s. 11d. At Elgin, in the north of Scotland, a colt foal, by Marcellus, 11110, made 155 gs., a first-rate paying price.

"PESTIFEROUS VERMIN"

Amongst other things now troubling us are rats and sparrows. Are these vermin common in Canada? In some parts of Scotland there is a saying among farmers "that it is a fell healthy sign to see a wheen rats about a house." Personally, I cannot share the opinion. The most loathsome of all rodents to me is the rat, and there is reason to believe that the loss sustained through them on farms is enormous. The fecundity of the female rat is something to be afraid of. She breeds at an appalling rate, and

the plague has become so pronounced that crusades against the rodents are being organized in many districts. In former days it was customary to poison the rats wholesale, but there are difficulties connected with this method of waging war upon the vermin. You cannot very well set poison for Mr. Rat without imperilling the lives of much more valuable members of the farm stock, and besides you are never sure that Mr. Rat will take the poison. His sagacity is almost human, and many stories are told of his abstemious policy when he smells danger. A new method has, therefore, come into favor. This takes the form of setting up an epidemic among the vermin by means of a virus. This is given in food. The first animals which partake of it die. The rat is a cannibal. Those which consume the dead bodies of their comrades in due season contract the disease and die off, only to be the means of contagion to others, and so on. But even this method sometimes fails. The rat becomes suspicious when he sees such a wholesale death-rate among his comrades, and he flits. Therefore, it is agreed that in order to be successful, the attack by means of the virus must extend over a wide area. War has been declared by many farmers' clubs, but whether it will be prosecuted to the bitter end is a little doubtful.

Sparrows are by many regarded as more destructive than rats. How to attack them successfully is a very grave problem. Poisoning is effective, but dangerous, and it is possibly illegal. They, too, multiply at a terrible rate, and they can destroy grain while in the ear to an extent surprising to those who are made acquainted with their ways for the first time. There are other winged farm pests, such as wild pigeons and rooks, but the sparrow is an easy first in mischief, and destructive proclivities. "SCOTLAND YET."

Hog Feeding in Winter

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Finishing of hogs for market begins as soon as they are littered. I feed shorts and a little bran mixed with milk, if I have it, and if not I use water to make a rather thick slop. In addition I always give plenty of water in a separate trough until the pigs are about 10 weeks old. I then start feeding oat chop or whole oats and shorts for another ten weeks and then begin mixing barley chop along with the oats and shorts. I have found that barley alone is not a good feed to use at any age. I never feed the pigs all they can eat of this mixture, but in summer have a pasture of either mixed grain or grain and rape sown together, which they can run in all the time. This fall I had fodder corn and turnips that I threw over the fence and found them to be excellent feed.

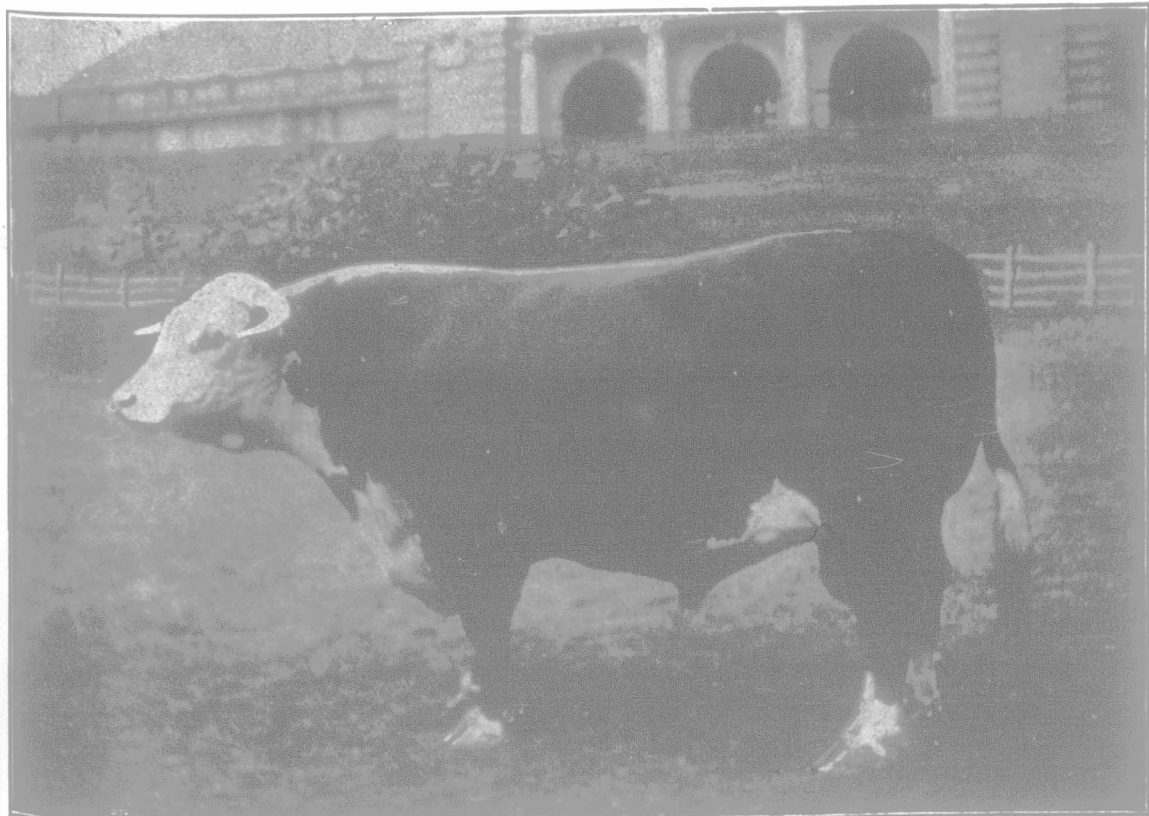
In the winter I use turnips or mangolds to take the place of pasture, but use the same grain ration. In summer they have a thick bush pasture to run in, which keeps off the hot sun, but this is all the shelter I think that is required. I fattened hogs last winter after it froze up. They had a yard about 200 feet square and a log pen with ground floor. I put in a load of straw and when it became damp and started to heat I cleared it out and put in dry straw again. They had a self-feeder full of grain mixture given above but no green feed. If I found they were getting dry and costive I mixed a little salt with the dry animal.

I do not think it matters so much about the weight you get a pig up to, but it does matter about the condition he is in. He must be broad across the back, full in the flank and able to do a day without feed, without showing it too much. If he is in this condition it matters very little whether he weighs 150 or 250 pounds.

I am busy building a pen for brood sows to litter in and to winter some young pigs. I am building it at the bottom and up against the side of a bank. I have cut a root cellar back into the bank with a door opening from the feed alley into the cellar. The floor of the cellar and floor of the pen are on a level.

Man.

D. E. COLLISON.



MASSIVE AND BREEDY TYPE OF HEREFORD.