

were bred by him, although owned by others. His cattle are brought out to perfection. The climate of Argyllshire seems to agree well with the hardy Highland breed.

Ayrshires—The Highland Society is not the best show at which to see a large exhibition of Ayrshires, but this year the quality was above the average, and the championship went to Cherry Ripe, a splendid milk cow, owned by Messrs. R. & J. McAllister, Mid Ascog Bute, and the best bull of the breed was declared to be the first prize two-year-old, Gigantic Stunner, shown by Mr. Robt. Osborne, which was also first at the Royal.

Clydesdales have often been represented in larger numbers, but seldom has the average of the quality been higher than at the Highland Show of 1898. The breed championship in the male section went to Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, for their two-year-old colt Benedict, a son of the remarkable breeding horse, Baron's Pride 9122. Benedict is a strikingly handsome two-year-old colt, well colored, of a good size, and like a show horse all the time. The same owners were also first in the aged class with an excellent horse named Montrave Sentinel, one of the most typical cart horses exhibiting at the present time. The first three-year-old horse, Prince Thomas, was both owned and bred in the County of Durham. He was bred by the Marquis of Londonderry, and is owned by Mr. H. Webster, a comparatively new fancier, who has had remarkable success during his short career. He took first in two classes at this Show, and last year had the championship of the females. Mr. W. S. Park, Hatton, Bishopton, was first in the yearling class with a superior colt, bred in Aberdeenshire. The championship of the females this year went to Sir John Gilmour, of Montrave, for his celebrated mare, Montrave Maud. This mare gained the Cawdor Cup in 1896, and has again won it. She is a daughter of the renowned Moss Rose, which

although, as their name indicates, originated in the border district, the fact that the prizes at this show held at the headquarters of the breed were gained by exhibitors far removed from the center proves the cosmopolitan nature of the Border Leicesters. The championship of the breed went to a three-shear ram, named Challenge Cup, bred in Cumberland, and owned by Mr. Matthew Templeton, Kirkcudbright. The first prize shearing ram came from Ross-shire, the first prize gimmer from Ayrshire, and the first prize ewe from East Lothian. Altogether we have had a fine show at Kelso.

"SCOTLAND YET."

The Flock at Weaning Time.

According to the decision of our best shepherds, as indicated by their practice, March and April lambs should be weaned early in August or before that date. This is important for the better doing of the lambs, as well as for the ewes, which have by this time become considerably reduced, owing to the dryness of the pastures and the frequent tugging by the lambs. The lambs, by more than half depending upon their dams for nourishment, do not assert their independence by seeking to get a living apart from their mothers. It becomes at this stage within the province of the breeder who has the well-being of the lambs and their dams at heart, to interfere on behalf of each branch of the flock, and not only separate them but provide the conditions and pastures most conducive to the well-being of each. Weaning will result in less setback to the lambs, and especially the younger members, by accustoming them to a daily feed of oats and oil cake, or oats and crushed peas, some weeks before weaning takes place. They will then have learned to look to the troughs as foster mothers, which they will soon adopt after the separation has taken place.

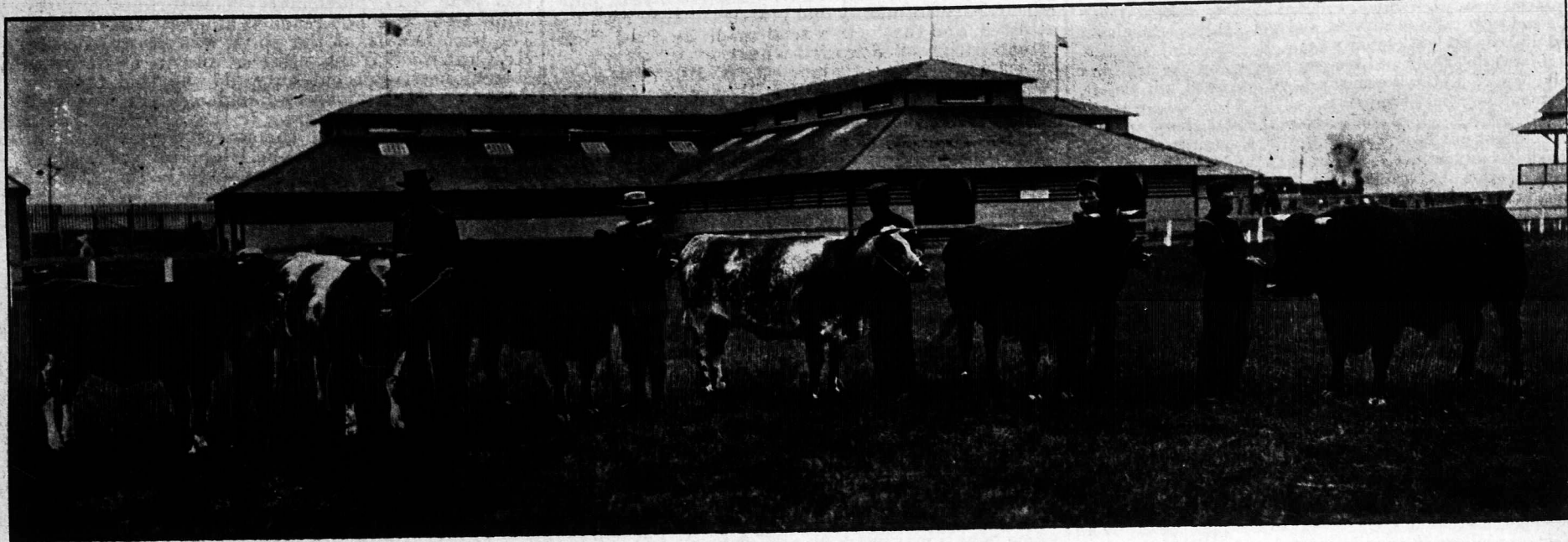
The wise breeder will have provided a special

back, so as to give them an even, smooth and plump appearance, which makes them more pleasing to a visitor. It requires some skill to do this well, but every owner of a pure-bred flock should be able to do this bit of dressing in a creditable manner.

Some sheepmen recommend and practice weaning the lambs gradually, principally to prevent injury to the ewes by their udders becoming overstocked with milk; but our plan has always been to turn them into a dry pasture a couple of weeks and have them brought up, and those that need it milked out two or three times a week till they have become nearly dry, when a better pasture should be provided, which will soon show its effect in their improved condition. A shepherd who takes a pride in his charge will go over the ewe flock and trim them into neat form, removing the more prominent ridges from the last shearing and other unevennesses. There is no occasion for grain feeding to breeding ewes at this season, but the flock should be got into nice thriving condition by the time the mating season arrives. There is no better treatment to this end than ten days or two weeks, run in a well-grown rape patch, which not only tones them up but brings them into season in good time.

Selection of Rams.

The demand for well-bred sheep for breeding purposes has not been so good for many years as at the present time, and prices have reached a fairly satisfactory point. As usual, the best are most sought after, and bring the highest price. No class of stock can be more rapidly improved by the use of good sires than can sheep. A pure-bred ram of strong character will make a wonderful improvement in the quality of the offspring, even



FIRST PRIZE WINNERS IN THE SHORTHORN CLASS AT THE WINNIPEG INDUSTRIAL, 1898; THE PROPERTY OF THE HON. THOS. GREENWAY, "PRAIRIE HOME" STOCK FARM, CRYSTAL CITY, MAN.

PRAIRIE FLOWER;
1st prize heifer calf.

JUBILEE QUEEN;
1st prize yearling.

GEM OF ATHELSTANE = 28324 =;
1st prize 2-year-old and sweepstakes female.

FRIEDA = 27621 =;
1st prize 3-year-old.

DAISY OF STRATHALLAN 12TH = 26107 =;
1st prize aged cow.

CAITHNESS = 22065 =;
1st prize aged bull.

twice gained the Cawdor Cup, and her son, Montrave Mac, was second at this Show in the aged class. Two of his daughters again were in turn second and third in the yearling class. The first prize brood mare, Mary Kerr, and the first prize two-year-old filly, Diamond Queen, were both got by the famous prize horse, Prince Alexander 8899, the first winner of the Cawdor Cup for stallions. Mary Kerr is owned by Mr. William Dunlop, Dunure Mains, Ayr, and the Diamond Queen by Mr. A. B. Matthews, Newton-Stewart, and both were bred in the Girvan district. The first prize yearling mare was Mr. Webster's Lady Lothian, which last year won the Cawdor Cup, and the first prize three-year-old mare, Golden Belle, is owned by Messrs. G. & J. Cocker, Fyvie. She was got by Gold Mine, a fine type of cart horse, who won the championship at Glasgow as a yearling. The first yearling filly was the unbeaten Maid of Athens, owned by Mr. A. Guild, and, like the champion horse and many other good ones, got by Baron's Pride. Altogether, the show of 1898 has been a most successful one.

A BORDER LEICESTER FLOCK BOOK.

Apart from the individual animals exhibited, possibly the most important event of the week has been the inauguration of a Flock Book Society for Border Leicester sheep. These sheep occupy the same place in the sheep world as is taken by Shorthorns in the cattle world. They are undoubtedly the best tups for crossing purposes, and whether put to Blackface ewes or Cheviot ewes the result is always a most satisfactory commercial lamb. It was high time the Border Leicester men pulled themselves together and attempted the institution of a flock book, as there can be no doubt they lose to a large extent in the foreign trade from the absence of such a record. These sheep will undoubtedly become popular throughout the world when their merits become as well known as they are in Scotland. They are widely diffused, and

lamb pasture to be ready to turn into at this season. An aftermath clover field is generally accessible at this season, and answers a good purpose in sending the youngsters forward. Of course, it is wise to separate the sexes, as the more precocious bucks incline to tease the ewes, and thus prevent the best advancement of either sex. It is, therefore, necessary to have two pasture fields or a line of hurdles to run through the lot to be used. Here is where a patch of early sown rape, near the barn, is of great advantage. As it is generally desired to hasten the ram lambs forward as fast as possible, so as to be ready for the buyers later on, a couple of feeds of grain daily along with the rape will cause them to grow rapidly and lay on flesh. A quart per day of oats, peas and bran, in equal proportions by measure, for three or four lambs, is quite heavy enough feeding, except they are to be sent to the shows, when they should have all they will eat up clean twice a day. Free access to a grass pasture will afford a wholesome change and keep the flock contented.

The ewe lambs on fresh clover will grow well, even with no grain adjunct, but a breakfast of oats and bran, a quart for four, will not be lost on well-bred lambs, whether they are to be sold as lambs, shearlings, or kept in the breeding flock. Fresh water should be provided at this warm season, even on succulent pasture, as the frequent drinks of milk the dams provided heretofore will now be missed. It need hardly be stated that rock or loose salt should be within reach at all times.

Before separating the ewes and lambs all pure-bred lambs should have their ear labels put in, and their numbers entered in the private flock book, along with the numbers of sire and dam. They can then be registered whenever the owner desires, when no doubts will be entertained as to their correct parentage. It is well, too, to go over the flock with the shears, squaring their tails and taking off outstanding locks about the head, neck, breast and

from a very ordinary flock of ewes, and the continued use of a ram of the same class will in a very few years raise the standard of the flock to one of uniform type and quality, if the young ewes are retained and the old ones weeded out as they should be. It is advisable to select and purchase the ram early in the season—two to three months before he is needed for service. The change of feed and surroundings, everything being strange to him, is not favorable to the surest and best results in breeding, but, in our opinion, largely accounts for so many rams being unsure for the first two or three weeks after being brought into a flock of ewes. If a ram is brought from a considerable distance, considerable time is necessary for him to become acclimated. Besides these considerations, a better selection may be secured early in the season before the stock has been culled, and there is generally much greater difference between the value for breeding purposes of the first choice and the third than the difference in the price may seem to indicate. It is well to act on the assumption that the best is none too good, if the price is within our means, or is likely to be justified by all the circumstances. Many farmers seem to think a ram is troublesome to keep before the breeding season arrives, but there is little ground for this notion. The ram lambs should be separated from the ewe lambs in order that both may do well, and the stock ram may safely and quietly be kept with the ram lambs, or, if these are sold, two or three old ewes intended for the butcher may be placed with him for company. The practice of changing rams every year is not, as a rule, commendable. If a satisfactory sire has been secured, it is safer to keep and use him for two seasons at least, and if his lambs are extra good, it is wiser to retain him for breeding with the older ewes, while a young ram is used with his daughters, rather than let him go at an indif-