

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

SHORTHORNS BOOMING.

We are going ahead in Ireland, in some things, at all events, and Shorthorn breeding is one of them. Judging from its popularity with us, the cosmopolitan red, white and roan is the breed for this country, and its supporters have every reason to feel gratified with the progress it is making. By the results of public sales, one can best judge the measure of appreciation entertained for any class of live stock, and the recent extensive Belfast auction of pedigree Shorthorn bulls was not without satisfactory significance. The bulls catalogued were of a very useful character, and afforded unmistakable evidence of the skill and enterprise which the majority of the tenant-farmer breeders of the north are bringing to bear upon the management of their herds, which, for the most part, are of recent origin. To Mr. F. Miller, of Birkenhead, the well-known and extensive exporter of pedigree stock, fell the distinction of giving the highest price yet realized at a public Shorthorn sale in Ireland, namely, 300 gs. This figure he paid for a remarkably level, well-made young red yearling, bred by Mr. J. A. Gibson, of Craigavad, Co. Down, and rejoicing in the name of Enfield, Bonnyblink. This calf is from the best strains of the old Sittyton Clipper tribe. We may briefly summarize the trend of the sale prices by saying that upwards of one hundred bulls sold at the very considerable average of over £42 11s. per head. The best prices were realized by Mr. R. W. Bell, Coagh; Mr. Thos. Pattleton, Money-more; Mr. W. J. Lyness, Moira; Mr. I. H. Cowan, Money-more; Mr. George Dickson, Newtownard, etc.

The increase in the number of pedigree breeders has been commented on in many places, and some of the English papers are now referring to the Irish herds as valuable sources from which to derive changes of blood. Recently one of our leading breed enthusiasts, Land Commissioner Hon. Fred Wrench, who is also a noted Hackney supporter, drew the attention of the Shorthorn Society of Great Britain and Ireland to the progress of the breed on this side of the Channel, and requested the Society to arrange for occasional meetings in Ireland. This proposal seemed only fair, but some worthy English and Scotch members, at the meeting at which it was considered, raised unreasonable objections. It was then decided by some of the leading Irish breeders to hold a meeting of their own on the occasion of the annual spring cattle show of the Royal Dublin Society, about the middle of April, and the arrangements for this junction, which is to be partially of a social character, have been completed. A deputation will attend the gathering from the Shorthorn Society, and there is every likelihood that from it will emerge an association of Irish Shorthorn breeders, not, of course, as a rival, but as a branch of the existing Society. There are some three hundred pedigree Shorthorn herds in Ireland, and the periodic meetings of and discussions among the owners of these cannot fail to be productive of beneficial results.

DEATH BUSY.

Agricultural and live-stock interests have recently received some serious losses through death. I may mention the passing away, at 69 years of age, of the noted agricultural chemist, Prof. Warrington, M. A., who for many years was intimately associated with the Lawes Experimental and Research Station at Rothamsted. He was the author of some standard works, the best known of which were his "Chemistry of the Farm," the demand for which exhausted fifteen editions, and a treatise on "Soil Analyses." In Ireland one of our most extensive and most popular landowners has been called away, in the person of Mr. E. T. Dawes Longworth, D. L., who, at his beautiful estate at Glynwood, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, carried on successfully the breeding of Clydesdale horses, Hereford cattle and Oxford Down sheep, bringing out some choice specimens to our leading shows. He was identified with several agricultural and breed societies, and an active member of the Royal Dublin Society. From the ranks of yet a third section of the agricultural community, viz., the land stewards and farm managers, a well-known and much-esteemed personality has entered into rest, in Mr. John Murison, who was only about thirty years of age, but had already won remarkable success in his work at Dunmore, Durrow, Queen's Co., the headquarters of that well-known stock exhibitor, Miss Staples. Only last year Mr. Murison led the champion Shorthorn bull at the Dublin Spring Show, and at the English Royal, also, it was he who brought into the ring the animal that eventually won first prize in the aged bull class among the reds, whites and roans.

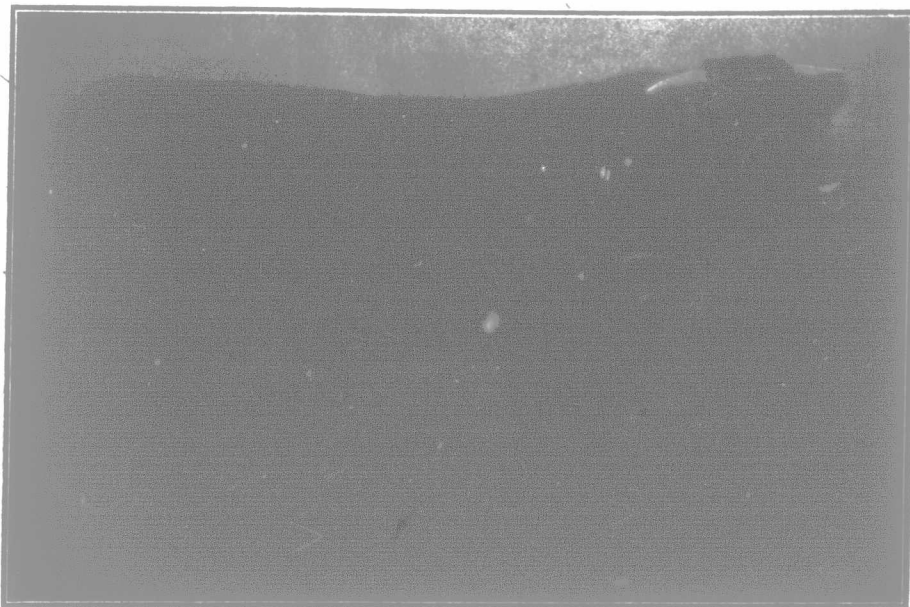
THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

Arrangements for this great venture are being energetically pushed on, and a staff of well over 1,000 workers are rapidly bringing the structural and other features to completion. The opening

ceremony is to be performed on the 4th of May by His Excellency the Earl of Aberdeen, and will be vested with all the pomp and splendor inseparable from a state function.

"EMERALD ISLE."

Progress in the sense of acquisition is something; but progress in the sense of being is a great deal more. To grow higher, deeper, wider, as the years go on; to conquer difficulties, and to acquire more and more power; to feel all one's faculties unfolding, and truth descending into the soul—this makes life worth living.—[James Freeman Clarke.]



Broadhooks Champion.

Yearling Shorthorn bull. Sold at Perth sale, Scotland, 1906, for 1,500 guineas.

THE FARM.

AN UNPASTURED WOOD-LOT RESTOCKING ITSELF.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Herewith I send you a couple of prints from a negative, giving a view of an unpastured wood-lot on the farm of Mr. E. Guest, Middlesex Co. Stock have been kept out of this wood-lot for from eight to ten years. The owner informs me that at one time they contemplated selling the wood, but are very glad now that such a plan was not carried out.

Under such ideal natural conditions as to soil moisture, etc., the growth of the young trees is quite



An Unpastured Wood-lot Reseeding Itself.

rapid, much more so than that of ornamental trees ordinarily planted about residences. The trees shown are almost entirely sugar maple, and vary from eight to twenty feet in height, with a diameter of $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 inches, besides smaller trees down to seedlings just above the ground.

It is a beautiful place about the 24th of May, but such sentimental considerations do not appeal to the majority. There are many other arguments, however, with which such can be met, and I know Mr. Guest considers himself well repaid for maintaining such a wood-lot upon his farm.

There are many farms throughout the country from which the wood-lot is rapidly disappearing. If the owners could be induced to preserve the wood-lot by fencing out stock and restoring natural conditions, in a few years they would have reason to congratulate themselves on having avoided a serious mistake, and conferred a blessing on the community at large.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

J. R. COLEMAN.

SPLIT-LOG DRAG BEATS THE OLD LEVELLER

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I saw a statement by a Quebec writer to the effect that in his opinion the style of scraper they

use in his locality is more suitable for clay roads than the split-log drag. Now, I would like to say to this gentleman, or any others who are skeptical as to the relative merits of the split-log drag and the old-style road scraper, just construct a drag and use it as per directions on the worst clay road you can find, and I am sure you will change your mind, for this is where it shines. We have constructed and used a split-log drag on a clay road that has been scraped for years with just the style of scraper represented, and of recent years with a much more improved scraper than your Quebec friend described. We have to admit that we were skeptical ourselves, but thought we would give the thing a trial, and were greatly surprised at results. At the very first attempt we did a much better job than we ever did with the old-style scraper, and with only one team, whereas we had to use two before, and wait till we should have been seeding. People don't like to go scraping roads just at the beginning of seeding. The split-log drag can be used—in fact, must be used—at a time when seeding operations are at a standstill on account of too much moisture. The thing looks trifling, but just try it. There is scarcely any expense in connection therewith.

Essex Co., Ont.

OBERVER.

PROTECTING SEED CORN FROM CROWS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As corn-planting time will soon be around again, I herewith send you my method, which proved successful last year, to prevent crows from eating or pulling up the seed corn in springtime, as in former years. Last spring, a couple of days before planting, I took about a pint of coal tar and heated it to almost a boiling point, which made it very thin. After dumping our corn in some large tubs, one end of a stick was dipped in the hot tar, then used to stir the corn for several minutes, which just gave the corn enough tar to darken the color a little, but at the same time it gave a strong tar odor. After exposing the corn to the sun for a few hours, it was completely dry, and could be run through the seeder as well as before receiving this preparation. In this way, we never saw a grain or blade of corn taken, pulled or destroyed by the crows. They simply did not go near it, although last summer our cornfield was several hundred yards from our dwelling house, while in the two former seasons the corn was planted in the immediate vicinity of our dwelling house and buildings, where we had to replant parts of the field a second time owing to the crows pulling out every blade of corn as it came through the ground, for yards at a stretch in some places, although we used the shotgun and