

CATTLE SALE AT THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

The eighth annual Experimental Farm sale of live stock came off at the farm, near the city of Guelph. Though the season was a busy one with farmers, there was a larger attendance than usual of visitors from all sections of the Province, with not a few outsiders from other parts of the Dominion. The offerings comprised a varied lot of thoroughbred, grade, and fat animals, chiefly cattle; the usual year's surplus of the farm, and the first brought to sale since the extensive importations of 1884. A good many of the young cattle catalogued were the produce of those importations. The breeding stock was in fair growing condition, fed on pasture and green fodder alone, without any special fitting up for the sale. In point of merit and breeding there were a few really good animals which deserved a better reception than was accorded them at the sale; but the lot, taken as a whole, could hardly be said by the most favorable critic to be of more than fair quality. The Shorthorns were represented by the five-year-old imported Booth bull, Sir Leonard, bred by Hugh Aylmer, and a young bull got by him and bred at the farm. Neither of these bulls were at all up to the standard which a careful breeder should look for in a sire, and, considering age in the case of the elder one, they sold well enough at \$140 and \$125 respectively. An eight months' heifer calf of the Wild Eyes strain, imported in dam from the Hindlip Hall herd of Mr. Henry Allsopp, ran up to \$280; and Mr. Davidson, of Whitby, secured a yearling heifer of his favorite Aberdeen blood on his lone bid of a like figure. The remaining Shorthorn, a seven-year-old cow, bred by Mr. Aylmer, was knocked down at \$190, a price which, notwithstanding her being under size and evidently a light milker, was considerably below what she would have brought a few years ago. The demand all through was far from active, and with the exception of an occasional spurt between a couple of buyers for some coveted animal, the bidding went along slower and with less spirit than usual. A better result would probably have been secured if the 28 head of thoroughbred cattle sold had all been of one breed instead of being as they were, divided up among seven different breeds, as in that case a larger number of the fanciers of the one particular breed would probably have been induced to attend the sale. Among the Herefords, Mr. Stone secured a promising young imported bull at \$225, and Mr. Sorby should have no cause to regret his purchase of a fine young cow, "Sunflower," imported from the Royal Windsor farm, with calf at her side, for \$350. This cow was regarded by many as the best bargain of the day. The Aberdeen polls comprised a number of good young animals, principally of the Tillyfour and Portlethen strains, and they were pretty widely distributed at moderate prices. The Holsteins were imported from New Hampshire, U.S. In the case of several of the offerings, private bids had been received during the summer from breeders at a distance, at figures far beyond what was realized on Friday, but the Government has wisely adhered

to its determination to dispose of all the surplus breeding stock of the farm only by public auction to the highest bidder. The following is the result of the sale:—

SHORTHORNS.	
Sir Leonard, 5 yrs., imported; P. Bathgate, Eramosa.....	\$140
Sir Leonard, O.E.F., 2 yrs.; J. Lamont, Caledon.....	125
Beta, 6 yrs., imported; A. Taylor, Dromore.....	190
Baroness Wild Eyes, 8 mos., imported; A. Cutler, Coldstream.....	280
Princess Royal, 1 yr., imp.; J. I. Davidson, Balsam.....	280
HEREFORDS.	
Conqueror, 1 yr., imported; Dr. Alloway, Montreal.....	250
Cronkhill Monarch, 1 yr., imp.; F. W. Stone, Guelph.....	225
Sunflower, 4 yrs., imp.; H. Sorby, Guelph.....	350
Bloomer, 1 yr., imp.; H. Sorby, Guelph.....	230
ABERDEEN POLLS.	
Ethelred, 1 yr., imported; Chas. Cumming, Troy.....	200
Forsyth, 1 yr., imp.; Geary Bros., London.....	100
Kabul, 1 yr.; H. Stairs, Halifax, N.S.....	340
Strathglass, 1 yr., imported; Thos. McRae, Guelph.....	180
Strathglass, O.E.F., 3 mos.; Mossom Boyd, Bobcaygeon.....	60
Kyma, 4 mos.; Geary Bros., London.....	120
Mavis, 3rd, 6 yrs., imported; Geary Bros., London.....	300
Minnie, 5 yrs., imp.; M. Boyd, Bobcaygeon.....	325
HOLSTEINS.	
Atlantic, 8 mos., imported; J. Jackson, Weston.....	100
Maximilian, 5 mos., imported; Wm. Leeds, Toronto.....	65
AYRSHIRES.	
Campbell, 3 mos.; H. G. Clark, Brampton.....	30
Campbell 2nd, 3 mos.; Frank Kean, Orillia.....	35
Stately, 1 yr., imported; A. Cairns, Flesherton.....	80
Peggie, 3 yrs., imported; A. Cairns, Flesherton.....	90
Jeanie of Auchenbrain, 3 yrs., imported; A. Kains, London.....	100
JERSEYS.	
Prince, 1 yr., imported; J. Jackson, Malton.....	90
Rosie, 1 yr., imported; Wm. Leeds, Toronto.....	65
Rosie 2nd, 4 mos.; Wm. Leeds, Toronto.....	75
GUERNSEYS.	
Ruth 1st, 1 yr., imported; F. W. Stone, Guelph.....	45
Goldleaf, 1 yr., imported; J. Idington, Stratford.....	65
Ruth, 4 mos.; Geary Bros.....	30
FAT CATTLE.	
Hereford Grade Steer (first cross), calved 6th October, 1882; weight, 2,005 lbs.; C. J. Alloway, Montreal.....	150
Aberdeen Poll Grade Steer (first cross), calved 24th June, 1882; weight, 2,080 lbs.; C. J. Alloway, Montreal.....	230
Shorthorn Grade Steer, calved 21st December, 1882; weight, 1,915 lbs.; W. West, Guelph.....	220
Shorthorn Grade Steer, calved April, 1882; weight, 2,325 lbs.; J. Simpson, Guelph.....	150
Shorthorn Grade Steer, calved April, 1882; weight, 2,095 lbs.; J. Simpson, Guelph.....	135

A number of grade cows sold at from \$40 to \$90 each, and about thirty lots of Cotswold, Leicester, Down, and grade sheep, mostly home bred, went at from \$10 to \$47. Several lots of swine, and one or two surplus working horses were also disposed of at ordinary figures.

GOVERNMENT AID TO HORSE-BREEDING.

The London *Live Stock Journal* publishes the following valuable extract from a paper read by Mr. Simpson, M.R.C.V.S., Maidenhead, before the Royal Counties' Veterinary Association:

"If the Government of this country decided to interest itself in this question of horse-breeding, it occurs to me that the system adopted in India, with some slight alterations, might very well be copied.

"I think no stallions but those who have been certified to be free from hereditary disease should be purchased, and no mare should be allowed to have the services of these horses unless her owner also could produce a certificate to the same effect. Two classes of stallions would probably be provided for certain districts, as in India, and the owner of the mare, with the assistance of the person in charge of the stallions, could select the horse best suited to his mare. No fee should be charged for the services of the stallion except in those instances

where the services were required for a thoroughbred mare. I can foresee that this would be necessary, or a horse whose produce was popular on the 'turf' would be called into requisition to cover these mares with a view to racing the produce. This would exclude from his services the class of mares that would produce stock beneficial to the country and with profit to the owner, and on that account breeding thoroughbreds from public stallions should not be encouraged. From the fact that so many of our best mares have gone out of the country I should not hope for great results until the produce obtained in this way had attained the age of three years, when doubtless their superiority over the class which farmers had for years past been breeding would be evident, and after that I should not be at all surprised if farmers and others bought good half-bred mares, as they would a good cart mare, with the main object of obtaining a few foals from them. On all sides it is admitted that the travelling stallion of the present day is a failure, and the speedy thoroughbred is not so much sought after on account of his qualifications as a hunter-getting sire, but simply because he has won so many important races. I am, of course, aware that the horse which looks most competent to get hunters, with good looks and plenty of bone and muscle, frequently gets stock the reverse of this. In such a case I would say, castrate and sell him rather than allow him to beget stock which is of no use to the country. This would be doing what I am told is done in Germany.

"Prizes should be given at every agricultural show in the kingdom for the best brood mares and young stock up to three years old.

"The stallions of a private individual should not be allowed to cover unless he possessed the certificate of a Government inspector stating that he was free from hereditary disease, but if he possessed this certificate he should be encouraged in every possible way. Thus, if he covered, say, fifty mares annually at a low price compared with his value, his owner should be subsidised in some way, thus imitating the plan adopted by the Austrian Government, who, as I have told you, give amounts of from £10 to £30 annually to all such stallions.

"The reason given by the House of Lords' Committee for not recommending that the Government should possess stallions of their own was that the Government would, if such a plan be adopted, place itself in the invidious position of competing with private owners of stallions, and that compulsion would be regarded as an undue interference with the liberty of the subject.

"I can hardly think that such considerations as these influence the Government of our time, otherwise it is difficult to conceive why the interest of the small country parcel carriers, as well as the larger business of carrying companies, were not first considered before the Parcels Post was allowed to be introduced. If, however, a committee of enquiry decided that the business of private owners of stallions would be interfered with, I can understand that nothing would be easier than dealing with such a state of things by the buying up of these animals, retaining those which were good enough, and castrating all the unsound brutes which are ruining the country, as regards horses, by their existence as stallions."

A Western paper has the following, without quoting its authority for the figures given: "France slaughters about four millions of beef cattle annually, the average weight of which is only about 200 pounds. In England about two millions are annually slaughtered, but averaging 500 pounds each. Thus, while France requires four millions of cattle to produce her 8,000,000 cwt. of beef, England obtains 10,000,000 cwt. from only two millions of cattle. Verily, there is great gain in securing good stock."