

Our Scottish Letter.

The principal events recently in this country have been sales of all kinds of pure-bred stock, but especially cattle and horses.

Polled Cattle Sales.—The Ballindalloch herd is well-known as one of the chief fountainheads of Aberdeen-Angus blood at the present time. No great show is complete without representatives of this herd, or cattle got by or out of Ballindalloch cattle, and the occasional sales held at the home farm of Sir George Macpherson Grant have been regarded with unusual interest. The sale of 1895 was in some respects disappointing; it could hardly be said that the cattle offered were quite as good as those sold at some of the previous sales, but still there was a large attendance of buyers from all parts of the United Kingdom, and very good averages were realized. Twelve cows made £36 6s. 3d. each; 11 two-year-old heifers, £46 11s. 7d.; 10 yearling heifers, £28 4s. 10d.; 7 heifer calves, £25 19s.; 41 head, including one bull, made an average of £35 5s. 9d. each. On the following day at Mr. Willsher's estate of Pitpointee, in Forfarshire, 63 head of black polled cattle made the respectable average of £20 3s. 10d.; the best prices being got for two-year-old heifers, the average for 13 of which was £29 17s. 10d. So far there is no indication that during this season any fancy prices will be recorded for the black polled breed. Next came the great Scottish Shorthorn sales in Aberdeenshire and Rossshire, and it will be interesting to compare the results of the sales of the two great competing breeds. As an interlude, there has been a sale of pedigreed Galloways at Sir Robert Jardine's farm of Castlehill, near Lockerbie. There the average for 45 head of the hardy Borderers was £20 16s. 8d.; the two-year-old and yearling heifers, as with other breeds, selling best; 20 cows made £19 12s. apiece; 8 two-year-old heifers made £31 3s. 6d.; and 5 yearling heifers, £31 18s. 6d.; 7 heifer calves sold well at an average of £10 16s., and 4 bull calves at £8 13s. 3d.; so that, taken all in all, the black polled cattle of the Borders compare not so unfavorably with their more fashionable neighbors of the North-east. A good commercial herd of 33 Shorthorns in Morayshire realized the respectable average of £18 0s. 9d.

Horse Sales have also been much in vogue. Clydesdales and Hackneys are the breeds which divide public attention in the North at the present time. The hardy Shetlander—diminutive, but a model—is more and more coming into favor, and excellent prices were got for all kinds at the Londonderry sale at Seaham Harbor. Twenty-nine horse ponies of the Shetland breed at that sale made an average of £18 14s. 4d.; 10 stallions drew £25 5s.; 39 mares with foals, £14 11s. 4d. Considering that these little fellows are from nine to eleven hands high, such prices are striking enough. The pony stallion, Harold, 36 inches, which won the championship at the H & A. S., Aberdeen, was bought for Mr. J. Douglas Fletcher, of Rosehaugh, Rossshire, at £73 10s. One of the mares, Susan, 35½ inches, drew £56 14s., and many were sold for more than £20. The Clydesdales at Seaham Harbor are highly popular in the North of England, and 39 of them, including a number of foals and geldings, realized the excellent average of £54 1s. A three-year-old mare, named Lupine, own sister to the well-bred horse, Sir Thomas, and got by Castle-reagh, drew £210, and a colt-foal by the same horse made £105, a very excellent price surely. An extensive joint sale of Clydesdales and Hackneys, the property of Lord Polwarth and Mr. David Mitchell, of Millfield, Polmont, was held on Tuesday at his place, which is midway between Glasgow and Edinburgh. Mr. Mitchell sold 42 Hackneys and Ponies at the respectable average of £41 each; the highest price being £220 10s., at which Sabina, the first prize two-year-old filly at the London Show in spring, was sold. The attendance was the largest seen at any sale in Scotland for many years; Englishmen being present in considerable numbers. Clydesdales numbered 39 head, ten of which were Mr. Mitchell's and the remainder belonged to Lord Polwarth. The average price of the 39 was £60 15s. 10d., and amongst these were ten foals, the highest priced one being a filly by Macgregor, which drew 36 gs. The highest price at the sale was £341 5s., at which the champion mare at Edinburgh, Mr. Mitchell's three-year-old Princess Alexandra, was knocked down. This mare was got by the champion, Prince Alexander 8899, out of the equally distinguished champion mare, Sunray, and she is in foal to Macgregor. Many of the best buyers were bidding for her, the second last being Mr. Smith, Blacon Point, Chester. Another of Mr. Mitchell's mares, Maritana, by Excelsior 5751, was knocked down at 210 gs. She is a fine typical Clydesdale, and has lots of admirers. The highest price realized by one of Lord Polwarth's mares was £136 10s., paid for Princess Alix, the first prize yearling filly at Edinburgh and second at Glasgow. Her half-sister, also by Prince Alexander, drew £105, and three yearling fillies by this one sire drew an average price of £98 15s. Lord Polwarth sold a lot of grand, big, pedigreed mares, got for the most part by Knight o' Lothian 4489, and in foal to the big, massive horse, Prince of Millfield 9650. The average price of seven two-year-old fillies was £60 13s. 9d., and of six three-year-old fillies, £100 5s. 6d. Seven yearling fillies made £59 14s.

Reference to Lord Polwarth naturally leads to some mention of his pre-eminent success as a breeder of Border Leicester sheep. This year he stands at the head of all the breeders of sheep in

this country. He has made the highest price which has been made this year for a ram of any breed—£151—beating both Lincolns and Shropshires. As an authority on breeding, Lord Polwarth has no equal in this country. His flock has maintained an unbroken supremacy for I know not how long a period, and 1895 has been one of the most eventful in its history.

Scotch Shorthorn Sales.—Shorthorns are again in the ascendant, and Aberdeen Shorthorns are the popular tribe. The week closing has been one of the most eventful in the history of the breed. For four days in succession Mr. Fraser, of the celebrated firm of Macdonald, Fraser & Co. (Ltd.), has been engaged in selling the red, white and roan. On Tuesday he opened proceedings with the annual sale of bull calves from the herds of Mr. W. Duthie, Collynie, and Mr. W. S. Marr, Uppermill, Tarves. The following day found us in Rossshire, where the herd of Mr. W. Peterkin, at Dunglass, near to Dingwall, was sold without reserve. On Thursday an equally extensive sale was held at Shethin, Tarves, where one of the oldest herds in Aberdeenshire—that of Mr. George Shepherd—was depleted of 97 of its members. On Friday a draft from the herd of Mr. Wilson, Pirriessmill, Huntley, brought an unusually busy week to a close. Each of these sales had characteristics of its own. The first and the last were sales of Cruickshank cattle pure and, so far as the term can be used of the Sittyton strain, unalloyed. The Dunglass herd was largely the result of the use of Cruickshank bulls on cows of non-fashionable but genuine Shorthorn character. The Shethin herd was, as became the oldest in the North, built on a Booth and Bates foundation, amalgamated in later years with Sittyton blood, through the bulls in use. Externally, the significant feature of the week's proceedings was the large representation of English buyers who were present, and their determination to carry matters their own way. At Tillycairn, where the Collynie and Uppermill sale took place, they adopted what was happily termed a defiant attitude from the outset, and gave the home breeders very little chance of procuring any of the plums. The Southerner simply carried off the pick of the calves, leaving gold behind him. To what extent this was true is shown by a few very simple figures: 47 bull calves were sold at an average price of £61 3s. 4d. each; 24 of these were Mr. Duthie's, and their average was £79 8s. 1d.; 23 were Mr. Marr's, and their average was £42 2s. 8d. Mr. Philo L. Mills, Ruddington Hall, Nottingham, himself bought eight of the calves; Lord Yarborough bought two; Lord Manvers, one; Lord Middleton, one; Lord Northbrook, one; Lord Auckland, two; Mr. T. B. Wilkins, Longton, Preston, two; and other English buyers, amongst them, 13; so that of the whole 47, no fewer than 30 went south of the border, mainly for crossing upon English Shorthorns. Stronger testimony to the value of the work done by Amos Cruickshank could not be desired, and, verily, the venerable Quaker has had his reward. It is to be regretted that he did not live to see a day so much fraught with interest to lovers of the cattle which he and his brother did so much to bring to perfection. The demand on Tuesday was decidedly for roans. Red bulls were also in favor, but white, or even light roans, were not fancied. The highest price was 235 gs., realized for Royal Archer, one of Mr. Duthie's lot; got by Scottish Archer; out of a Gravesend cow. He was bought by Mr. Mills, as were almost all of the dearest calves from both herds. Marengo, another get of the same sire, was purchased by the same gentleman for 190 gs. Lord Middleton paid 165 gs. for still a third of Mr. Duthie's calves, Staff Officer, whose sire was the Highland Society champion of 1894, the young bull, Pride of Morning. The only Scottish breeder who was able to secure one of the "cracks" of the sale was Mr. Reid, Cromleybank, Tarves; but he had to pay 150 gs. before he could get quit of the Englishmen. The calf he bought at this price was Morning's Pride; one of Mr. Duthie's, and got by the same sire as the last. A like figure was paid by Mr. Mills for Scotland's Pride, still a son of the young champion bull, whose six sons made the magnificent average of £102 11s. each. Mr. Preece, Northampton, paid 145 gs. for Murat, one of Mr. Duthie's, but got by Scottish Archer, and the average price of eleven of his sons was £84 1s. 11d. The highest price made in Mr. Marr's selection was 110 gs., at which figure Mr. Mills secured the fine bull, County Fashion, whose sire was Captain of the Guard, a bull which Messrs. Duthie and Marr have jointly hired from Mr. I. Deane Willis, Bapton Manor, Wilts., who has probably the largest herd of Cruickshank cattle in this country. This bull is not without fault, and individuality cannot be compared with Scottish Archer—a truly magnificent animal; but an average of £48 18s. 3d. apiece for twelve calves shows that he is a most promising breeding bull. His calves were mostly younger than those got by the sires already named; and as the catalogue was arranged according to age, they came towards the close of the sale. In some respects the most remarkable thing about the sale was the favor bestowed on the Uppermill Missie family, out of which have sprung some of the best-known prize cattle of the present day, including the Royal champion, Miranda. Nine bull calves from cows of this tribe were sold on Tuesday, at the grand average of £83 13s. apiece. Can any other tribe of Shorthorns parallel this? If so, we should like to know about them. Canadians will doubtless be interested in this great sale;

there are many Cruickshank cattle in the Dominion, and, in fact, the breeders there were the first to recognize the superlative merits of the Aberdeen Shorthorn. What has been written will therefore, we trust, be specially interesting to them, and they may take it from me that the Tillycairn sale of 1895 witnessed the final subjugation of English territory by the Scottish Shorthorn. At the other sales good paying prices were realized; but nothing went beyond 100 gs. except the five-year-old bull, Chamberlain, at Dunglass, which drew 160 gs. This magnificent animal was bred by Mr. Duthie, from whom he was purchased as a calf. In style and gait he can surpass the best Bates bull that ever walked, and he has quarters and thighs far in advance of anything we have ever seen in Booth cattle. The keenest bidders for this bull were Englishmen—Messrs. Mills and Thorley; but in the issue the former carried off the trophy at the price named. Thirty-five cows at Dunglass averaged £24 18s. 7d. each, and 43 at Shethin made £20 4s. 4d.; 6 Dunglass two-year-olds, £19 1s.; 15 Dunglass yearling heifers drew £28 16s. 9d.; 11 Shethin yearlings, £24 16s. 4.; 14 Dunglass heifer calves made £18 1s. 6d., and an equal number at Shethin made £18 18s. The Dunglass bull calves numbered 18, and drew £16 18s. 4d.; the Shethin bull calves numbered 21, and their average was £15 16s. The average price of 92 Shorthorns of all ages, at Dunglass, was £26 1s. 4d.; and the average price of 97, at Shethin, was £19 9s. 10d. The Booth Crocus tribe, the Bates Waterloos, and the home family of Mountain Maids, were most in demand at Mr. Shepherd's sale. At the hour of writing the details of the Pirriessmill sale have not come to hand; but as it was avowedly a draft sale, it is not in the least degree to be expected that anything like the Tillycairn prices will be realized. SCOTLAND YET.

Prince Edward Island Correspondence.

PROVINCIAL AND OTHER SHOWS.

SIR,—Crops on the Island this year have been good in some sections—in others, very poor. The rains were partial. On the north side we had no rain from the 20th of June to the 10th of July, and, as a consequence, the early grain was poor. Oats are very short in this section. Turnips did not come up till so late that they will not be a full crop. In the south and west crops are better, as they had timely showers. Pasturage is keeping good. Heavy rains in the latter part of the summer have given us good after-grass. The output of the cheese factories will be large. Dairying will be our best paying industry this year in spite of low prices for cheese. The Island cheese is still being held for a rise. The summer make is in cold storage in Montreal, and there is a large lot of fall make in the curing rooms of our factories yet. As our cheese is of as good quality, and as uniform a lot as is made in America, we are hopeful that we will still get a good price for them. This little rumpus got up by some jealous cheesemaker or buyer at the Brockville Cheese Board will not hurt us a bit. That defamer of our fair name will have to eat crow with his chum of the North British Agriculturist, who tried to defame the fair name of Canadian cheese. Let him possess his soul in patience till our cheese goes on the market, and then, when he knows more about its quality, he will be a wiser if not a better man. Ex-Governor Hoard and D. M. McPherson examined our cheese last summer, during their visit to the Island, and Mr. Hoard said it was the best he ever ate. And I understand that Mr. McLaren, the veteran cheese buyer who visited our factories with Prof. Robertson this summer, was well pleased with the quality of our cheese. Our cheese have perhaps a local flavor, but we would have some members of the Brockville Cheese Board know that it is a superior flavor that is relished by the English consumer. Ex-Governor Hoard, and many other strangers who have visited us, say our mutton and lambs have a very superior flavor, which is peculiar to these provinces down by the sea.

Our exhibitions are all over. They have had fine weather in every case. We had four agricultural exhibitions this year. The first was held at Alberton, up pretty near the west end of the Island. It was a very successful meeting, and the competition was keen. Keen competition always has the effect of improving exhibits another time, by spurring producers on to get a better article.

The second show was the Prince County fair, held at Summerside. It was also a good show, great improvement being noticeable from year to year.

But as all roads lead to Rome, so all our best exhibits were sent to the Provincial, which is held for four days in Charlottetown. We have all the best stock from the county shows here, and, besides, all from Queen's, the banner county, that are not shown anywhere else.

The Provincial this year was away ahead of former years in respect of stock shown. In some other respects it was not quite up to the mark. This year there were scarcely any agricultural implements or machinery on the grounds.

The weather was all that could be desired, and attendance such as would make a shareholder's heart glad. The entries were numerous in all classes of live stock and poultry. Dr. Reid was present to judge the horses, and did his work well and very satisfactorily to all parties.

In cart horses we have not such a good class of stallions as we showed some years ago, when horses were a better price. There were, however, some