

Ayrshire Breeders.

The sixth annual meeting of the Ayrshire Breeders' Association was held on Feb. 9th, in Toronto. The President, Mr. Thos. Guy, of Oshawa, in his opening address, alluded to the depressed condition of agriculture, and as a consequence many farmers are turning their attention to dairying. The Ayrshire cattle occupied a foremost position among the dairy breeds, as was shown by their great popularity at the present time. This is owing to their superior milking qualities, hardihood and beauty of form and color. He wished to impress upon his hearers the importance of breeding for milk only, and to bear in mind the fact that milk production was the whole object of Ayrshire cattle.

The annual reports show that the membership has been largely increased, and that the Association is in a good financial condition. Ayrshire cattle have taken a very prominent position during the year, a large number having been selected for the World's Fair at Chicago. Some fine animals have also been imported from Scotland.

A number of interesting papers were delivered by members of the Association. One by Mr. D. Nichols, Cataraqui, upheld the usefulness of the Ayrshire cattle, and stated that the Ayrshire milk was rich in caseine, and was therefore peculiarly adapted for cheese-making. The speaker then went on to compare them with the different dairy breeds.

Mr. Alf. Brown, of Bethel, addressed the meeting on "How to select sires for dairy herds so as to secure uniform results." He said that a reliable milk record attached to the pedigree of all pure-bred cows and published in the herd book would be of great value. Our best dairy men are keeping private records, but this is not enough. If the above records were kept we could make our selections without any trouble, and cattle could be purchased on their merits by consulting the herd book.

After hearing the paper, the following resolution was carried in accordance with the advice contained in it:—Moved by Alf. Brown, seconded by Joseph Yuill, "That in the opinion of this Association, owing to the importance of the dairy industry of Canada, it is desirable that every effort on the part of this and kindred associations should be made to extend their usefulness in every possible way; therefore be it resolved that a reliable milk record of all registered cows be placed in each future volume of the Dominion Ayrshire Herd Book."

Mr. Yuill enumerated among the points of a good Ayrshire cow the following:—Face, lengthy; eyes, bright; horns, strong; shoulders, thin; back, long; no hollows behind the shoulders; considerable width between the front legs; tail long and tapering and well set up; udders covering as much of body as possible; mouth and nostrils large; hair soft and skin not too thick.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers was then taken up, and resulted as follows:—

President, M. Ballantyne, St. Mary's.
Vice-President for Ontario, M. Stewart, Menie.
Vice-President for Quebec, W. C. Edwards, North Mission Mills.
Vice-President for Manitoba, George Steele, Glenboro.
Vice-President for Northwest Territories, Claude H. Manvers, Moosomin.
Vice-President for Prince Edward Island, C. C. Gardiner, Charlottetown.
Vice-President for British Columbia, A. C. Wells, Chilliwack.
Vice-President for Nova Scotia, J. Blanchard, Truro.
Secretary-Treasurer, Hy. Wade, Toronto.
Delegates to the Industrial Exhibition, J. McCormick, Brockton, and Thos. Guy, Oshawa.
Delegates to Western Fair, M. Ballantyne, St. Marys, and A. Kain, Byron.
Delegates to Ottawa Central Fair, J. Yuill, Carleton Place, and C. Smith, Hintonburg.
Delegates to Cattle Breeders' Association, D. Morton, Hamilton, and J. Knight, Elginburg.
Directors of the Association—J. McCormick, Brockton; Joseph Yuill, Carleton Place; Alf. Brown, Bethel; Thos. Guy, Oshawa; W. W. Ballantyne, Stratford; J. Knight, Elginburg; W. Nichol, Plattsville.
Auditors, H. E. Eyre, Harlem, and C. W. Green, Toronto.

In taking the chair as President of the Association, Mr. Ballantyne made a few remarks regarding the importance of the work they had in hand, and the necessity, in the interests of the farming community, of carrying on that work with energy and zeal.

The meeting then adjourned.

The better the breed the better the feed, and the better will be the results secured. Each is dependent to a more or less extent upon the other.

There may be such a thing as a general purpose horse on the farm, but when sent to market the requirements of cities control the price. Distinct classes are wanted here, such as draught, saddle or driving horses.

Feed no animal that is not thrifty by nature. There is much difference in this respect. One animal may make double the gain from a given allowance of food that another will. Study the individual characteristics of your flocks and herds, and aim to know each head separately.

Our Scottish Letter.

AN INTERESTING CHAPTER IN CLYDESDALE BREEDING.

The show of the Highland Society held at Kelso in 1863 was one of the best ever held in the Border district. The Merryton stud was strongly in evidence in the female classes. London Maggie, as we have said, was first in the brood mare class. Old Rosie, the dam of Young Rosie 67, was first, and another Merryton mare was second in the yield class; the first prize three-year-old filly was a splendid and well-known Merryton mare by Black-leg 71; another Merryton filly was third in the same class; the Coldrach Merryton filly was second in the two-year-old class, and a renowned mare Rosie, by Garibaldi 312, was first amongst yearlings. There were many other well-known mares prize-winners on this occasion. The fourth yield mare was Brisk, a mare from Galloway, the dam of Vanquisher 890, in his turn the sire of M'Kean's Prince Charlie 629, and the sire of the dam of Druid 1120. The second three-year-old filly was the premier female of the older Clydesdale race—Keir Peggy 187, the dam of Darnley, Newstead 559, and Pollok 697—all three Highland and Agricultural Society first prize-winners—not to speak of many mares. The fourth prize three-year-old filly, and the first prize two-year-old filly were from the Glenlee stud in Galloway, then managed by that sterling old Clydesdale fancier, Mr. Oliphant Brown, who is still spared to us. It will occur to most of those familiar with the history of Clydesdales that we have in this list the germ of an almost complete history of the most notable modern Clydesdales.

Beginning with the first prize yield mare, Old Rosie, we are introduced to an interesting chapter in the history of horse breeding. This mare was bred by Mr. Hugh Roger, then farming in Attiquin, near Maybole, and she was got by Andrew Hendrie's Farmer's Glory, a horse of Lincolshire breeding, which was awarded the Ayr premium during two seasons, and afterwards travelled in Cumberland. He bred remarkably well in Ayrshire during his first season, the fourth prize mare Brisk, in the same class as Old Rosie, being another of his daughters. The dam of Old Rosie was a black mare, owned at the time by Mr. John Craig, Drumshang, and, I rather think, bred by him. Old Rosie was quite a famous mare in her time, and two of her daughters, at least, were prominent in the showing. The elder was Young Rosie 67, foaled in 1865, and got by the Kenmuir Prince of Wales 669, winner of second prize in the two-year-old class at this same show of 1863, while the younger was Knockdon Jean 66, foaled in 1870, and got by the Merryton Prince of Wales 673. Both of these were prize-winning mares, and produced good stock. Knockdon Jean was second as a yearling at the Perth Show of 1871, her more distinguished relative, Knockblack mare Rosie, being first in the two-year-old class, and her own sister, Princess 185, being first in the yearling class the same day.

Both Knockdon Jean and Young Rosie were owned by Mr. James Nicol Fleming, and at his great sale at Knockdon, in October, 1876, they passed into the hands of Mr. Cross, of Knockdon, in whose possession they died. Of the two, Young Rosie was by far the more notable. Indeed, as events have turned out, she is one of the most distinguished matrons amongst Clydesdales. Her progeny included Knockblack mare Rosie, whose sire was the Merryton Prince of Wales, her own brother, Prince David 643, well known as a breeding horse in Kintyre, and amongst others the sire of the dams of Prince Lawrence, Ardnacraig 4812, and Sir Lawrence, and the mare above named, Princess 185, which was for a time in the possession of Mr. Drew, and was bought by Mr. Johnston, Lochburnie, at the Merryton sale of 1879. The record of the Knockblack mare in the showyard was up to the date at which she appeared almost unparalleled. This same Kelso Show, as we shall find later on, witnessed the advent of a mare in the national show ring which eventually made a record that beats hers, and possibly has not been more than twice excelled. However, there can be no doubt that the phenomenal success of the Rosie fillies at the 1871 show of the Highland Society was the first indication of the supremely successful career of Prince of Wales 673 as a breeding horse. As is, perhaps, fairly well-known, Knockblack mare had but two foals. One of these was Dunmore Prince Charlie 634, the sire of Moss Rose, while the other was Young Prince of Kilbride 1013 or 327, the sire of nothing in particular. The best animal we ever saw got by him is a mare named Victoria, owned by Messrs. R. & J. Findlay, Springhill, and a daughter of the dam of the famous Flashwood mare. This is a beautiful filly, but, unfortunately, she was blemished at an early stage of her career.

If prize-winning alone could ensure success in a breeding animal, Young Prince of Kilbride ought to have been a breeding horse of the first water. We have indicated somewhat of the calibre of his dam, and his sire—M'Kean's Prince of Kilbride 690—had an almost unique record for a stallion. He was first at the Highland and Agricultural Society's Shows at Perth in 1871, Kelso in 1872, and Stirling in 1873. In fact, Young Prince of Kilbride was the produce of the two sensational animals of the Stirling Show in 1873. An important element, however, was wanting in this combination, which was present in the other which produced Dunmore Prince Charlie. It is, of course, to be borne in mind that neither of the two sons of Knockblack mare was a beauty. But both had sires with great

reputations, and the one bred a large number of superior animals, one of them one of the best Clydesdales of the past twelve years, while the other bred almost nothing that was above the average. The sire of Dunmore Prince Charlie was Old Times 579, admittedly the best three-year-old stallion of 1872, and the something that was wanting in the other case but present in this was the consanguinity of the sire and dam of Dunmore Prince Charlie. The dam of Old Times was Hawkie, an own sister of Darling, the dam of Prince of Wales, so that the granddam on the top line and the great-granddam on the under line of Dunmore Prince Charlie's pedigree were own sisters. In the case of these two sons of Knockblack mare we have a superficial exception to the rule "that like begets like," and yet when we look more closely into the matter we will find that the wisdom of breeding from the best and coupling the best with the best was seldom better proved than in the case of the history of this whole Rosie tribe. There may be, and there will be, disappointments even where this is done. I have been long enough associated with the Clydesdale business now to remember the expressions of surprise that were common when Dunmore Prince Charlie used to be discussed, but ere a few years had passed away surprise had given place to regret that such a horse should ever have been sold out of the country.

The fourth prize mare in foal at Kelso in 1863, as has been said, was another daughter of Hendrie's Farmer's Glory. This was Brisk, the dam of Vanquisher 890, a mare of great weight and substance, and favorably reported of by the older race of breeders who remember her. Vanquisher was a horse about which comparatively little is on record. He has, however, played an important part in Clydesdale history, and his descendants would be sufficiently numerous were there none of them but those got by Macgregor and Lord Erskine. The sire of Vanquisher, however, has made his influence felt in a marked degree on the breed of Scottish horses, and, as he figures for the first and only time at a Highland and Agricultural Society's Show at this same Kelso meeting of 1863, it may be well to say all we have to say about him here and now. The horse was none other than Lochfergus Champion, possibly, previous to the days of Darnley and Prince of Wales, the most familiar name in Clydesdale lore. And this familiarity is not to be wondered at, because, with perhaps the exception of the Prince of Wales and Old Times' lines, there is not an outstanding Clydesdale strain unaffected by his blood. He was the sire of the sire of Darnley, the sire of the dam of Drumflower Farmer 296, and the sire of the sire of M'Kean's Prince Charlie. Add to his relationship to these outstanding and influential sires the fact that he has been the sire of very many mares that have proved successful as breeding animals, and it will be seen that we have good reason to accord to Lochfergus Champion a pre-eminent place amongst Clydesdale heads of families. And yet the greatest show yard achievement of this horse was a highly commended ticket in the two-year-old class of the Highland and Agricultural Society's Show of 1863. Lochfergus Champion was a Clydesdale of the Clydesdales. He was bred by Mr. Gordon, Barstibly, Castle-Douglas. His sire was Salmon's Champion 737, own brother to the famous Victor 892, and his dam was a good old Galloway sort, descended direct from the Lanarkshire breed which the Muirs of Sornfallo took to Kirkcudbright. I take it that he was not a horse of superlative quality, but strong and masculine, and in some features even coarse. His daughters were a little after the same type, and some of them were rather "brainy." They were, however, a hardy, enduring race, and not seldom lived to very old ages. They have gained the highest honors at the Royal more than once, and possibly the most successful breeding animal amongst them was Whittlebury Jean 229, the dam of the unbeaten two-year-old colt of 1874, Brewster's Pride of Scotland 602. In all likelihood the best show horse ever got by Lochfergus Champion was Brewster's Surprise 845, which gained first prize at the Highland and Agricultural Society's Show at Perth in 1871, and bred grand stock in the Island of Bute, where he was premium horse same year. He was exported at the close of that season.

Still following the prize list of 1863, we are next introduced to Keir Peggy 187, the combination of whose blood with that of Lochfergus Champion produced Darnley, the greatest Clydesdale stallion ever bred. It is not often one finds Darnley described in these terms, but any one who seeks to rob him of this distinction cannot have weighed the facts and examined the evidence. He was champion of the Highland and Agricultural Society Show in 1878, when six years old, and in 1884, when twelve years old; he was twice winner of the Glasgow Agricultural Society's first premium, namely, in 1876 and 1877, and he was first aged stallion at the Highland and Agricultural Society's Show at Edinburgh in the latter year. He was winner of the family group first prize at the Highland and Agricultural Society's Show in 1882, with five animals of any age, beating Prince of Wales and Lord Lyon, and to-day there are more stallions got by him breeding prize stock than there are got by any other horse. Only, as far as I know, at this Border show of 1863 did his grand sire and his dam ever meet together in the same show ring, and as we have given some full details about the former, we need not grudge to spend a little time with the latter.

In all that constitutes good quality in a draught mare, Keir Peggy must be pronounced as near to perfection as any Clydesdale that ever lived.