

Gossip

Mr. W. A. Kerr, Hamilton, Ont., writes:

"As a new subscriber I am taking the liberty of advising that Robt. T. Craig, V.S. of Market street, Hamilton, has purchased the imported Shire stallion, Jubilee Victor 17422. This grand specimen of the draft sire was bred by Baron Rothchilds and imported by that well-known importer, T. J. Berry, of Hensall, Ont. He is a horse standing fully 16½ hands high, in color black with small stripe on face and three white ankles, weighing when in stud condition about 2,000 lbs., closely coupled, short, strong back, excellent feet and legs beautifully feathered, good silky coat and actioned like a Hackney. He will make the season between his own stable and the counties of Wentworth and Halton. It is to be hoped that the enterprise shown by Dr. Craig in purchasing such a high-classed horse will be amply rewarded."

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Oxford Down Sheep

Your correspondent lived for nearly 40 years in that part of England where Oxford Downs are the common sheep of the district, in fact, the home of the breed. He knew John Treadwell, of Upper Winchendon, intimately well, having often done business with him, and as this gentleman took first prize for rams at the Royal of England for twenty years in succession it must be admitted that his sheep were the true type of the breed, in addition to which descendants of his rams may be found in every sheep country in the world.

Mr. Treadwell won a twenty guinea prize offered by the writer at the Buckingham Show for the best pen of sheep. They were Oxford Down ewes of the very finest type, size and quality. The Oxford Down is derived from a cross between the Hampshire Down and Cotswold, and the main object of this cross was to produce a sheep that combined both wool and mutton in a greater ratio than either the Hamp, Shrop or South Downs. The breed is, comparatively speaking, a new one that requires considerable forcing to bring forth all its most excellent qualities of size, wool and mutton.—J. G. V. F. Johnson, B.C.

Manitoba Breeders

The annual conventions of the Manitoba Breeders' Associations will be held during the latter part of February. Stock judging courses will be made a special feature of these meetings. The speakers this year will likely be chosen from among local experts. Several prominent agricultural lecturers will also be brought in to assist in the meetings.

The Angus Breeders Meet

The Angus Breeders' Society of Canada met at the Commercial Hotel, Guelph, during the Winter Fair. The meeting was attended by members from different parts of the province, and each one seemed to have the same convictions that the days of the Angus are just about to dawn upon the people of Canada, especially upon those who have visited the International at Chicago, the greatest exhibition of fat stock on the American continent, where the Angus came out on top every time, just where we hope to see them in the near future at our own Winter Fair.

The additional \$50 given by this society to the sweepstakes prize at the Winter Fair at Guelph, should the winner be from an Angus sire, should induce some of the best breeders of Canada to experiment on the Angus, which would most certainly give good results. The few Angus grades shown in 1904 gave a fairly good account of themselves, especially in the block test.

J. W. BURT, Secretary.

Faith in the Shorthorn

In his address before the annual meeting of the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association, President S. F. Lockridge, in discussing the status of the breed for the year, said:

"The Shorthorn industry shares with other interests in the general confidence. Not since this association was incorporated, it seems to me, have we had such cause for faith in the future of the breed. While the average prices at public sales have declined from those of a few years ago, yet we should consider the fact that these prices represented inflated conditions that were not conducive to a healthy and regular trade. It has been unfortunate for the Shorthorn breeding interest that it has been subjected, within the last thirty years, to periods of inflated prices, at which times we have had an invasion of our ranks by a class of dealers who in the very nature of the case should not have been interested in the breed at heart, but were influenced solely by the dollars and cents involved—mere speculators in pedigreed stock, who, when depressions came, deserted the colors as rats in a sinking ship. One of the most damaging results of this booming process is the eliminating from our ranks of the small breeder and steer producer whose means will not permit of extreme prices, and who consequently seeks other sources for his sires or forsakes the field altogether. But the present conditions are such that this class of producers can obtain improved blood at a fair valuation, and the indications are that they are taking advantage of their opportunity in large and increasing numbers."

Deputy Minister for Manitoba

Mr. Hugh McKellar, who has held the office of Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba for a number of years, has resigned. J. Black, B.S.A., editor of the Western Edition of the Farmers' Advocate, has been appointed to succeed him. In Mr. Black the farmers of the prairie province will have an energetic and painstaking official.

The Guelph Sale

The Guelph Fat Stock Club held a meeting on Dec. 31st to arrange for the annual sale of pure-bred stock to be held during the early half of March. The report of the committee appointed to interview Mr. Hodson and Mr. Westervelt was presented. The live stock associations, Mr. Westervelt stated, would arrange for advertising the sale throughout the Northwest. The associations would also pay \$50.00 towards the freight on any point west of Lake Superior on any car of stock bought by one man at any of the auction sales held under the general rule. It was proposed that the Guelph Fat Stock Club should guarantee anything required for these services over \$500. The number of animals to be offered at the sale would be 50 males and 25 females. In order to pay the expenses of the sale \$1.00 per head and 3 per cent. of the amount would be deducted from the selling price of the animal. All animals entered will be inspected before being accepted. Entries close on January 20th. Ten dollars must accompany each entry as a guarantee of good faith that the animal will be offered.

"I never see the iceman stop before your house any more, Mrs. Flipperleigh." "No," said the Buxtons, next door, "fell into their fortune they've been so cool to us that we don't need any help from the refrigerator."—Chicago Record-Herald.

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