

Sheep Notes.

Sheep require a variety of food to form flesh and fat.

With sheep, rather more than with any other class of stock, care must be taken not to over-feed.

Overstocking is usually injurious to the sheep and ruinous to the farmer.

Dryness is one of the requirements in the production of the finest grades of wool.

No sheep should be allowed to die of old age, but all should be fattened and sent to market before their vitality has been impaired.

Sheep are naturally gregarious. When one is seen by itself, something is evidently wrong.

In commencing to fatten sheep, the feeding should not be crowded at first, but gradually increase the amount of the ration.

A small, fat sheep will always bring better prices than a large, poor one.

Sheep are almost essential in maintaining the fertility and cleanliness of the land.

Keep the quarters clean. Sheep do not need the accommodation of manure to keep them warm.

To have good-sized sheep, they must be grown rapidly while young, and it is important to give them a good start.

When sheep lose patches of wool from their heart or bellies, it indicates a feverish condition, and is usually the result of improper feeding.

Sheep thin in flesh have weak digestion, but even the strongest are easily injured by feeding grain too heavily.

It makes considerable difference in the quantity and strength of the wool whether or not the sheep have even, regular conditions.

When early lambs are expected, especial care must be taken to provide warm, dry quarters, in order to avoid losses. Keep the ewes in a good, thrifty condition.

Old sheep, or sheep that from any cause have bad teeth, should be fed ground feed. Such sheep are rarely profitable.—[Scottish Farmer.]

Our Scottish Letter.

Many problems await settlement in connection with the feeding of stock. These are being variously dealt with on both sides of the Atlantic. I see the subjects discussed at Guelph bore on this to some extent. Here we have had various tests, resulting in useful lessons. A test combining questions of manuring as well as feeding is being carried out at Cockle Park, the Northumberland Experiment Station. There an old pasture was manured with different forms of plant food. Their efficacy was tested, not merely by the appearance of the pasture, but also by the success attending the grazing of sheep on the various plots. These tests are popularly known as the Manure and Mutton experiments. They have suggested similar lines of inquiry to other experimenters, which are being eagerly followed up. Recently the relative values of superphosphate and basic slag have been tested in connection with a sheep-feeding experiment on turnips. The result is somewhat of a surprise. During the earlier stages of the test the roots grown with superphosphate yielded the best results. They were the heavier crop, and the sheep seemed to make more rapid progress on them. By and bye the scene changed; the roots grown with basic slag were the better quality; they were of greater feeding value, and lasted longer, with the result, when the slaughter test came into force, that the mutton grown on the basic slag roots was superior, and the sheep fed on them better by 15 per cent. than those fed on the competing roots. This is the sort of experiment which educates. Farmers learn from it not only something about manuring, but also a good deal about feeding.

One of the sensations of the hour is the new variety of potato called Eldorado. It was brought out by that potato-growing expert, Mr. Arch. Findlay, Markinch, Fifeshire. At present there are not more than six tons of it in existence. Four pounds of these potatoes were sold at Smithfield show for £600, or about \$750 per pound. This is a fabulous figure, and puts out of court the time-honored theory about certain things being worth their weight in gold. It must now read, "Worth its weight in potatoes." The production of new varieties of seeds of all kinds is one of the recent agricultural developments. Mr. Findlay has made a special study of potatoes, and has produced some of the most successful varieties ever put upon the market. The average life of a new variety seems to be about ten years. Disease at first is unknown amongst the new kinds. By and bye they seem to lose the power of resisting the ravages of the fungus, and ere a decade has passed the tubers are out of the race, and new sorts have come into being. Nearly all the great seed and root firms give attention to this business. Some succeed, and some fail. Mr. Findlay confines his attention to potatoes, and has had wonderful success with several varieties. At present Eldorado is in its infancy. The favorite, because more plentiful, is

the Northern Star. It is another of Mr. Findlay's creations, and is going like wildfire. It has been before the public for a longer time than the Eldorado, and a greater quantity of the seed can be bought. It, too, was selling at an abnormal figure at Smithfield.

Mr. Chamberlain's crusade proceeds apace. There is no doubt that the vigorous M. P. is the man of the moment. It looks as if he would run the Empire. On the whole, I should be disposed to say that he has a very large body of opinion in this country at his back. Whether he has a majority of the electors will not be known

big, well-built animals, with plenty quality and weight. I should say that Smith & Richardson with luck will show something worth while at the Toronto spring event. Other shippers by this late steamer were Messrs. Campbell, Alvinston; Graham, Carberry, and Irving, Winchester, Ont. These gentlemen had horses got by champion sires like Prince Robert, and his son, Hiawatha. Mr. Richardson had horses by the famous Baron's Pride, as well as Hiawatha; the grand horse Moncreiffe Marquis, sire of the champion gelding at Chicago, and the \$5,000 horse, Montrave Mac. Mr. Irving had a big horse by the celebrated

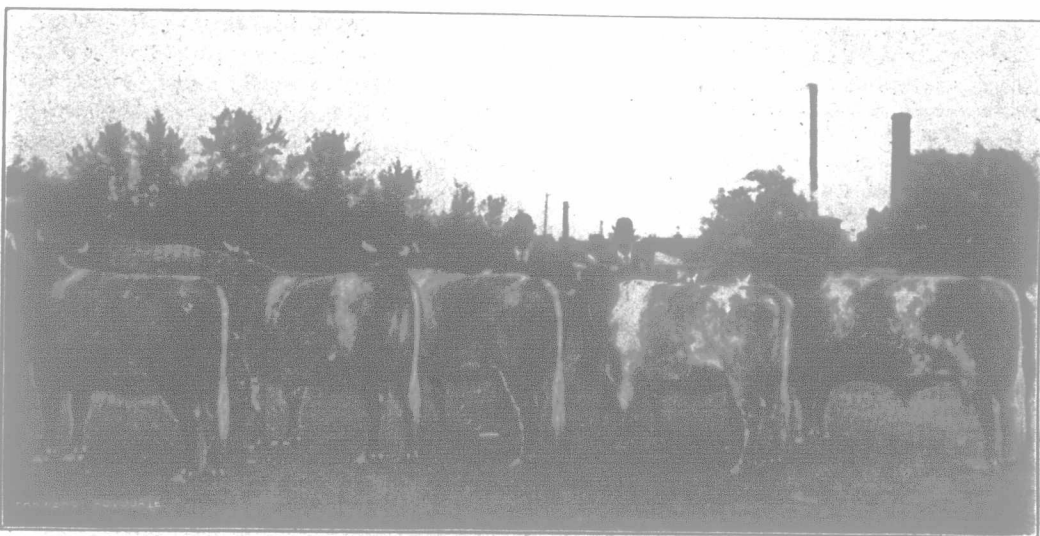
champion horse, Holyrood 9546. Mr. Brydon, who is one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the Clydesdale breed in Great Britain, and President of the Clydesdale Horse Society, has presented a magnificent trophy, value \$500, for competition at the Glasgow Stallion Show. The horses competing must pass a veterinary examination, be approved stock-getters, be registered in the Clydesdale Stud-book, and be up to 16.3 if a three-year-old, and 17 h.h. if a four-year

old or over, with corresponding weight and girth. Mr. Brydon has always been an advocate for a big horse—any other kind being practically unsalable in the north of England. The Clydesdale can hold his own with the best if he gets a chance, and Mr. Brydon's big trophy will bring out the big ones.

The Departmental Committee, which has been sitting on the question of fixing a standard for butter, has at length reported. Some time ago they fixed the maximum of moisture at 16 per cent. If more than this percentage of moisture be found in butter there is a presumption that it has been tampered with, and the merchant selling it is liable to be prosecuted. When the committee came to try and settle the question of the quality of butter, apart from moisture, they found themselves in a difficulty. Their report is not unanimous, and I should not be surprised to see Lord Onslow decline to proceed further in this matter. The committee unanimously recommends that all manufacturers of margarine should be compelled to employ a slight percentage of sesame oil in mixing their product. This would render impossible the substitution of margarine for butter.

"SCOTLAND YET."

Every one cannot take out-of-door exercise as much as is desirable, because duty calls elsewhere, but every one can think noble and pure thoughts, and love fresh air to breathe during the hours of repose—the two most necessary things to observe in the quest for beauty.

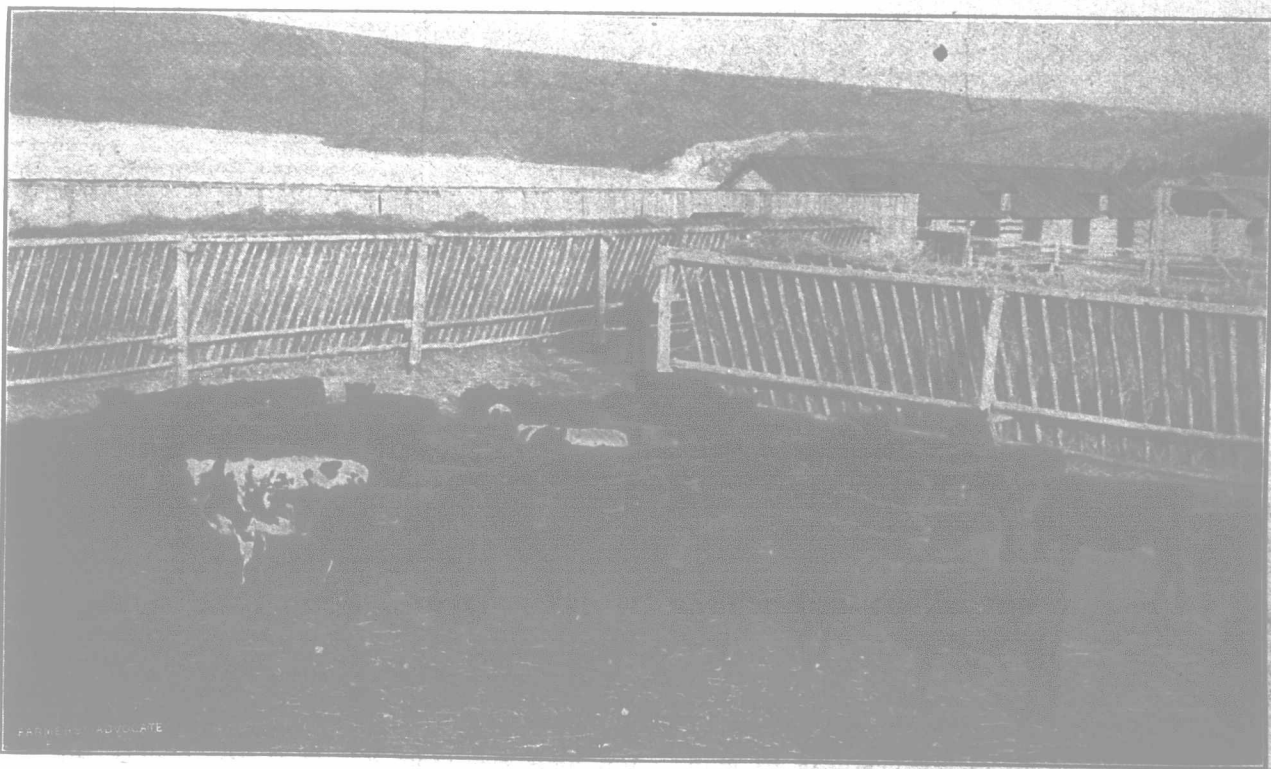


Groff's Prizewinning Herd.

Lady Fanny 9th = 50519. Duchess of Athelstan 4th = 50518. Roan Mary = 45970. Olive Wenlock (imp.) = 48379. Spicy Robin = 28259. First-prize Shorthorn herd at Guelph Central and other shows, 1903. Property of Israel Groff, Alma, Ontario.

until the general election comes round. The net result in the political world so far has been to disintegrate all existing parties. The sectional cleavage is amazing, and Mr. Chamberlain's own party, the Liberal Unionists, is worse hit than the rest. The main question with one is, "What would be the effect of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals on agriculture?" That Canada and other colonies would benefit hardly admits of question. But the betterment of the demand for Canadian produce here would only intensify the keenness of the competition with which the British farmer has to contend. How he is to benefit from the proposed fiscal changes is what I do not understand; but he seems to expect to do so, and is supporting Mr. Chamberlain all he knows.

Reports have come to hand regarding the great shows at Chicago and Guelph. I am glad to see that Canada has been doing well in the big contests at Chicago. Graham Bros. have got an exceedingly strong hand in the black horse, Cairn-hill. He was a good horse here, and is a good one anywhere. The quality of the Clydesdale exports to Canada in 1903 has been worthy, and a good lot of horses left about a fortnight ago. The most extensive shippers were Messrs. Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont. Mr. Richardson was on the ground himself, and took an equal number of horses from Mr. Peter Crawford, Dargavel, Dumfries, and Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, Kirkcudbright. He had some horses that will take a bit of beating. Two or three of them have made their mark on this side. They are



In Winter Quarters.

Aberdeen-Angus grade calves in the feeding yard of the Bow River Horse Ranch Co., Cochrane, Alta.