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MARCH 17, 1904

The Collie Dog's Head.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—Are not the fanciers who are in control of the collie dog breed ruining it by the fancy points which they have established? I refer in particular to the great importance attached to narrow heads, gradually and evenly increasing in height and width from the nose backwards. Anything like a projecting forehead is, I understand, considered a blemish. Is it any wonder that one of the most famous cattle-breeders in the Dominion, who also breeds collies, should express the opinion that by these fancy points the brains are being bred out of the race? What would we think of a race of human beings with exceedingly retiring and narrow foreheads, sloping gradually backwards from the top of the nose to the back of the head? Would we not expect to find such people in the lunatic asylum? Allowance must be made for the difference in the shape of a dog's head from that of a human being, but by discriminating against projecting foreheads the fanciers are discriminating against brains. I think that even those who may be unwilling to admit the truth of this statement in its entirety, must nevertheless confess that in making fancy points of any kind for such an important part as the head and brain, the breeders are running a terrible risk of interfering with the intelligence, and it is, of course, this intelligence that makes the collie so valuable. The fanciers may develop a type of animal that will be beautiful, and that will make an admirable playmate for children, but if they destroy or lessen the intelligence, they destroy or lessen the value of the breed for practical purposes.

These views are not mere matters of theory with me. A couple of years ago I desired to have a collie for use upon the farm, and bought a young prizewinning animal, descended from the very finest stock. He was a beauty, but of comparatively little value. Since then I requested a friend who travels through the country to pick up a collie pup descended from animals in use upon the farm, and noted for intelligence in herding. I got such a one, although not registered in the Collie Society's books. Already the superior intelligence of the second animal has become very marked, and I have become strongly confirmed in my impression that if we are to have really intelligent and useful collies we must keep away entirely from the prizewinning strains, and look to those whose parents have been bred and used upon the farm, and are noted for their intelligence. If the collie fanciers wish to give points for that organ at all, they should find what form of head is associated with the highest degree of intelligence, and encourage that type. In that event I think we would have prominent and rounded foreheads, and not the smooth, retreating form so much admired at present.

T. B. M.

Exhibiting at St. Louis.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I endorse what Mr. D. C. Flatt has said in the "Farmer's Advocate," of February 25th, in reference to the exhibit of stock at St. Louis. While there will be a number who will exhibit stock, most of these began selecting and fitting just as soon as the hundred thousand dollars was appropriated by the Government to assist in making an exhibit worthy of our great and growing country. I have been through three of the great American Expositions—the World's Fair, Chicago; the Trans-Mississippi, Omaha, and the Pan-American, Buffalo. I got a good average share of prizes at these expositions, and I say I would have been out of pocket had I not received some Government assistance. It costs a lot to select and fit winning stuff where you have to face the world. I am one of those who started to fit just as soon as the Government promised assistance. I cannot afford to stop; had too much in it before we were told not to exhibit by our Government official. I think if he had used a little more diplomacy the stockmen of this country would have got the assistance they are entitled to help to make a representative exhibit, and let the world see that when Canada has her best together none have any better. I was surprised at so many of the stock associations endorsing the withdrawal of the Government grant (I wonder what they'll do with it?); I shall be still more surprised if some of those talking stop at home are not at St. Louis with their stock.

J. T. GIBSON.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

Wisconsin World's Fair Appropriation.

Wisconsin's World's Fair Commission has set aside \$10,000 to be applied in payment of the expenses of Wisconsin exhibitors of live stock at the World's Fair at St. Louis. This money is to be expended under direction of the Wisconsin Live-stock Breeders' Association, which association will also approve exhibits proposed to be made. Wisconsin breeders and owners of live stock are urged to make exhibits of live stock at this fair that will be creditable to them and the State.

THE FARMERS ADVOCATE.

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Our Scottish Letter.

Winter has arrived late, and the first day of March has been a bitterly cold time. Although headed Scottish, this letter is being written in London, where the weather appears to be much colder than in the north. Snowstorms have been general throughout England, and the outlook for the farmers is a little better than it was a week ago. February was a wet month, and some began to fear a repetition of the experience of 1903. A period of frost and snow is always welcome, and the outlook just now is better with the cold than it was with the excessive rain.

THE LONDON HORSE SHOW

Season is in full swing. Last week the Shire Horse Society held a very successful show, and to-day (1st March) the Hackney Horse Society opened its gathering. The display of Shires was excellent, the numbers large, and the quality improving. There is, however, a lack of commercial interest in Shires, and, I am told, tenant farmers are complaining that the Shire boom means very little for them. In this particular the Clydesdales have, undoubtedly, the best of the trade. There is no ring of wealthy men keeping up the Clydesdale prices, yet the recorded averages at Clydesdale sales are quite as good as are the ordinary sale prices obtained for Shires. Apart from the fancy prices for horses and mares bred by those who form the Shire ring, Clydesdales are selling fully as well as the Shires, and the trade in them is much more uniform. All the same, we would like very much to have a share of the Shire fancy prices, and to see the King and wealthy men patronizing the Clydesdale breed as they are patronizing the Shires. As a "society"

American market. They simply did not know where to stop when they commenced, and all bulls were sold at remunerative prices. With the Aberdeen-Angus bulls the results were not so pleasing. The numbers were out of all proportion to the demand, and the result was what is known on the Stock Exchange as a slump. The only eagerness in purchasing was manifested when the coveted Trojan-Erica strain came into the ring. Towards the close of the day they were not wanted, and one was sold for 9½ gs., or about £10. Whatever be the cause, this cross commands phenomenal prices when the quality is at all passable. The first-price yearling heifer, Ebright of Ballintomb, sold for £141 15s., and the highest price realized at the sale was £372 15s., for the Ballindalloch bull, Evolsurus, of the same strain. He went to Mr. Cooper, Hurley. Another from the same herd, named Eboniser, went to Mr. Drummond, Kent, at £173 5s. As showing the value of breeding, it may be mentioned that the first-price bull, Hustler, whose breeding is not fashionable, only made 42 gs., or £44 2s. He went to Ireland. The 495 head of A.-A. cattle sold made an average of £24 17s. 6d. The seven bulls from Ballindalloch, nearly all Ericas, made an average of £172 10s. The average price of 326 black polled bulls was £23 14s. 9d. At Aberdeen, on the following day, 217 black polled bulls made £18 16s. 8d. apiece of an average. The lesson of the A.-A. bull sales of 1904 is the folly of keeping too many indifferent males for breeding purposes.

The Shorthorn trade was altogether on the up-grade. At Perth, three yearling bulls from the Huntingtowerfield herd, Perth, made the magnificent average of £316 15s. each. Two of them made £420 each, and

all three go to South America. These bulls were all got by an Irish-bred bull named Prince Fortinbras, which also went to South America some time ago. A bull named Collynie Fashion, bred by Mr. Duthie, which stood second to one of the £420 bulls, sold for £157 10s., to go to England. The first-price bull which beat another of the £420 bulls, sold for £78 15s. He was, in fact, not sold, but withdrawn when that price had been bid for him. He is unlucky enough to have a short pedigree, and although a meritorious animal, none of those who cater for the foreign market would look at him. The average price of the 317 Shorthorns sold at Perth was £34 3s. 7d., and the average price of 260 bulls included in that lot was £36 13s. 3d. At Inverness, 62 Shorthorn bulls made an average of £30 16s. 3d., and 110 A.-A. bulls made an average of £21 6s. 1d. At Aberdeen, 181 Shorthorn bulls made £27 6s. 9d. The Irish Department of Agriculture was a sure buyer

of Shorthorn bulls up to £50, and this gave a big fillip to the commercial class. It was the South Americans who made the big prices.

Highland bulls were sold at Oban, and Galloways at Castle Douglas and Carlisle. At Oban, 31 Highland bulls made an average of £31 17s. 6d., the highest price being £84. The breeders of Highland cattle mean to push the sale of their breed in the N.-W. T. They have a good friend in Mr. Peterson, the Deputy Minister in Alberta. Galloways met a ready trade. The highest price was £51, paid for a bull bred by Messrs. Biggar & Sons, Dalbeattie, who have many friends in Canada.

"SCOTLAND YET."

Hog Weight by Measure.

Please renew my subscription. I would not like to miss the weekly "Farmer's Advocate" now. If there is as good or better paper printed at the same price (\$1.50) I would like to know it.

A subscriber was asking about the measurement of pigs to ascertain the dressed weight. Three feet of girth will dress 100 pounds, and every additional inch gives ten pounds. They vary a little according to condition, but you will always be within the ten pounds. With best wishes for the "Advocate."

Holm, Orkney, Scotland. JOHN HEPBURN.



Sand Boy.

Winner of first premium in the three-year-old Shire stallion class, and sweepstakes of the breed, Spring Stallion Show, Toronto, 1904. Imported by Dalgety Bros., London. Owned and exhibited by J. M. Gardhouse, Weston, Ont.

event, the Shire Horse Show easily eclipses the other functions of a like nature in the metropolis.

Hackneys are the most showy of all horses. To-day there has been quite a satisfactory exhibit of the breed, and the stallions in all the classes were, as a whole, better colored and decidedly more useful than in many cases they have been. Scotland has done uncommonly well in the stallion dams, and the female classes are not yet judged. Mr. Alexander Morton, of Gowanbank, Darvel, is first in the smallest class of aged horses—that is, horses not exceeding 15.2—with Lord Ossington, a beautiful dark chestnut, got by a fine horse named Glengolan, which Mr. Morton was unlucky enough to lose just as he was promising to make a high-class sire. Mr. C. E. Galbraith, Terregles, Dumfries, was first in the four-year-old class, with the big horse, Administrator, which last year won the supreme championship of the show. Mr. Iain Ramsay, of Kildalton, was first in the largest class of all, with a magnificent horse named Diplomatist. This is a very grand big horse, well colored, and showing lots of style and substance. As a harness-horse sire his like has not been seen at London for some years.

Important as are horses, cattle during the past few weeks have attracted most attention. The great spring bull sales are over, and the Shorthorn remains king of the cattle. The Perth sales have been unusually successful this year. The demand for Shorthorn bulls was keen to a degree, and the supply bore some relation to the demand. Prominent among the purchasers of Shorthorns were buyers for the South