

Our Scottish Letter.

A GREAT WEEK OF SHORTHORN SALES.

The outstanding event in the agricultural world during the past few weeks has been the series of sales of Shorthorn cattle in Aberdeenshire. Five consecutive days were occupied in this way, and 335 head of Cruickshank cattle were disposed of. The sales were very largely attended, buyers being present from South America, Canada, Ireland, many parts of England, and all parts of Scotland. The auctioneers were Mr. J. M. Fraser, of Macdonald, Fraser & Co. (Limited), and one of his assistants, and the general result has been highly satisfactory to exposers.

The first sale took place at Auchingathle, in the Vale of Alford, when 35 head from the herd of Mr. W. A. Mitchell were disposed of. When we mention that the highest price was £42, and the average £23 15s. 6d., it will at once be recognized that a very steady selling trade was experienced all through. This is all the more clearly seen when it is further mentioned that ten of the thirty-five were calves.

The greatest sale of the series took place on the second day at the celebrated farm of Uppermill, Tarves, tenanted by Mr. W. S. Marr, when 27 bull calves from the herd of Mr. Wm. Duthie, Collynie, and 24 bull calves from Mr. Marr's own herd were disposed of. The attendance reached its highest on this day, and, in spite of very inclement weather, trade was brisk and prices splendid. Mr. Duthie's highest price was £210, and his average for 27 calves £60 4s., a drop of about £10 from the figure reached last year, but still high enough to please everybody. Mr. Marr's calves were younger, and hence made somewhat lower prices, but they sold with remarkable uniformity, the highest figure being £89 5s., at which two were sold, and the average £44 15s. 1d. The average price of the 51 bull calves sold on this one day was £52 18s. 7d. The sires which most distinguished themselves during this sale are worth noting. The place of honor, curiously enough, belongs to a young bull named Golden Count 68711, which Mr. Duthie used for but one season and sold for exportation to South America. Golden Count was bred by Mr. J. Deane Willis, Bapton Manor, Cadford, St. Mary, Wilts., and was got by the celebrated bull Count Lavender, out of Gwendoline. Four of his bull calves were sold last week, and made an average of £100 3d. apiece. There is a considerable gap between him and the next sire—Mr. Duthie's noted champion bull, Pride of Morning 64546. Three of his calves made £82 5s. apiece, and then came the bull Scottish Archer 59893, which more than once in the past has made the best record at these sales. This year four of his calves drew £80 17s. apiece. These three sires are in Mr. Duthie's herd. The next is Mr. Marr's stud bull, Spicy Robin 69639, like Golden Count, bred by Mr. Deane Willis and bought when a calf for 250 gs. In view of his own youth, and the youth of his calves, he made a notable record, namely, £62 14s. for seven calves. There is a considerable gap between this figure and the next—£49 7s., at which four calves by the Invergreghomy sire, High Steward 67188, were sold. This bull is now in Mr. Philo L. Mills' herd, at Ruddington Hall, in Nottingham, and he gives excellent promise as a sire. One of the most numerous represented sires in the sale was a young bull named Prince Frolic 63126, bred at Uppermill, and used for one season at Collynie. He has a record of £47 13s. 4d. for six calves. Two Collynie-bred bulls—own brothers—the property of Mr. Marr, show excellent results. These are Golden Ray 67132 and Sittyton Pride 67939, the former having an average of £41 1s. 7d. for eight, and the latter an average of £30 15s. for seven bull calves. These figures show conclusively how completely the breeding of the best and most valuable class of modern Shorthorns is dominated by the blood of Sittyton, and with Bapton Manor sale holding the record for all breeds in 1897, and Bapton Manor bulls leading the averages in both Collynie and Uppermill, the wisdom of Mr. Deane Willis' purchase of the whole of Amos Cruickshank's yearling and two-year-old heifers is fully vindicated.

The third day's sale took place at the farm of Tillygreig, in Udney parish, not far from Uppermill. The weather was of the worst possible description, but yet Mr. Geo. Walker's 54 Shorthorns made an average of £26 11s., and Mr. Crombie's 44, removed from Woodend for convenience of sale, made £26 4s. This was a very hearty sale, and the younger stock were brought out in excellent bloom. The pedigrees were again dominated by the Cruickshank influence, and the prices were wonderfully uniform and steady. The nine heifer calves from both herds made exactly the same average—£21 16s. 4d., and the five bull calves from Tillygreig made £27 18s. 7d., and the eight, from Woodend, £26 5s. It may be worthy of remark that not only is Woodend dominated by Cruickshank blood, but lying contiguous to Sittyton, during the minority of the present occupant, Mr. Crombie, the herd was under the immediate control and management of Amos Cruickshank. The Sittyton traditions are being admirably sustained. The stock bull Granite City 70570, a typical red Cruickshank bull, was secured by Mr. W. Parkin-Moore, an eminent breeder in Cumberland, for £43 1s. This bull's calves were of great promise.

On the fourth day the company followed Mr. Fraser to Strathbogie, a little further north, and at Pirriemill, the farm of Mr. John Wilson, factor for His Grace the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, K. G., in that locality, assisted at a joint sale of his stock and a draft from Mr. A. M. Gordon, of Newton, the convener of the county of Aberdeen. This was a draft sale from both herds. Mr. Wilson sold 58 head at an average of £23 9s. 5d., and Mr. Gordon sold 10 head at an average of £34 6s. 8d. The highest price of the day was £74 11s., at which figure Mr. Mills secured Star Princeus, a yearling heifer bred by Mr. Gordon. Another from the same herd, the bull Star of Magic 71685, a roan yearling, was secured by Lord Carlingford's representative at 56 gs., or £58 16s. It should be mentioned that the Newton stock bull is Star of Morning, a magnificent animal, and sire of Mr. Duthie's champion bull Pride of Morning. It would be hard to find a better bull for his years than Star of Morning.

The last sale of the series was held at Kinellar, when a herd well known in Canada was dispersed. The name of the late Mr. Sylvester Campbell was widely known in the Dominion, and his stock were possibly quite as much favored

as the Cruickshank stock. Mr. Campbell was an original thinker. While admiring the Sittyton tribe, he did not slavishly follow Cruickshank, but struck out on a line of his own. The herd was founded 50 years ago, and was based on merit with blood. Scottish bulls were first used, and then, for a time, came a series of Booth bulls; latterly the Scottish type of blood was alone followed, and the results were apparent to all at the sale. The cattle have never been highly fed and have always proved good "doers" for their purchasers. The sale went well, the averages, in spite of an incessant downpour, coming out to the satisfaction of all parties. Nineteen cows made £33 18s. 7d. each; 10 two-year-old heifers drew £41 7s. 5d.; 11 yearling heifers made £24 18s. 3d.; 7 heifer calves, £24 6s.; 3 bulls, £26 19s., and 12 bull calves, £18 7s. 6d. At the same time Mr. Watson, Auchronie, sold 17 head from his herd, the average price of which was £23 14s. 10d.

Altogether the Aberdeen Shorthorn week of 1897 has been an inspiring experience, and fully sustained the prices reached during the preceding twelve months. Possibly the trade in bull calves was rather overdone last year and there is a lull in the demand from South America. Exporters seem to find it impossible to make a market there for all they have purchased, and hence the absence of any great demand for bulls for that quarter during the past week. Canadian buyers insist on the tuberculin test, and as Scottish breeders do not help them much in this they have to purchase cautiously, leaving a margin for possible loss. We are now in the middle of the great dairy show week, about which we will have something more general to say in our next.

"SCOTLAND YET."

FARM.

Ontario Farmers' Institute Meetings.

From the Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes for the Province of Ontario, Mr. F. W. Hodson, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, we have received the programme of meetings for the season of 1897-8, beginning on November 30th and continuing till March 8th. In all there are some 206 regular and 306 supplementary meetings, or a grand total of 512, requiring the services of about 50 regular speakers or delegates, besides which there is a reserve list of about a dozen. The majority we recognize as having been engaged in the work before, so that they have the benefit of experience, and many of them are regular or occasional contributors on practical subjects to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. The regular list is as follows: Duncan C. Anderson, Rugby; Dr. Wm. Brodie, Toronto; G. A. Brodie, B. S. A., Bethesda; Alf. Brown, Picton; Martin Burrell, St. Catharines; Prof. G. E. Day, B. S. A., Guelph; Prof. H. H. Dean, B. S. A., Guelph; T. A. Duff, Toronto; Andrew Elliot, Galt; J. B. Ewing, Dartford; J. J. Ferguson, B. S. A., Smith's Falls; W. S. Fraser, Bradford; D. Z. Gibson, B. S. A., Willow Grove; H. Glendinning, Manilla; Joseph E. Gould, Uxbridge; A. C. Hallman, New Dundee; D. G. Hamner, Burford; W. W. Hilborn, Leamington; R. F. Holtermann, Brantford; R. Honey, Brickley; Prof. H. L. Hutt, B. S. A., Guelph; Arthur Johnston, Greenwood; A. P. Ketchen, Brucefield; Wm. Linton, Aurora; Nelson Monteith, B. S. A.; Lieut.-Col. McCrae, Guelph; Jas. McEwing, Drayton; Alex. McLean, Carleton Place; Thos. McMillan, Seaford; John McMillan, M. P., Seaford; A. McNeil, Walkerville; J. E. Orr, Fruitland; W. J. Palmer, B. S. A., Toronto; L. Patton, Oxford Mills; A. W. Peart, B. A., Burlington; T. G. Raynor, B. S. A., Rosehall; J. H. Reed, V. S., Guelph; Simpson Rennie, Milliken; Wm. Rennie, Farm Superintendent, Guelph; John Robertson, Ingersoll; Miss Laura Rose, Assistant Instructor Dairy Department, O. A. C., Guelph; W. C. Shearer, Bright; Major James Sheppard, Queenston; D. G. Smith, Hamilton; Wm. Smith, ex-M. P., Columbus; R. S. Stevenson, Ancaster; R. Thompson, St. Catharines; Jas. Tolton, Walkerton; T. C. Wheatley, Blackwell; C. A. Zavitz, B. S. A., Guelph. Reserve list—G. C. Caston, V. Ficht, Prof. F. C. Harrison, B. S. A.; Elmer Lick, Miss Bessie Livingston, J. E. Meyer, A. J. Reynolds, Mrs. M. J. Rogers, Mrs. J. L. Smith, Joseph Yuill, and M. McNabb. Mr. Harrison was removed from the regular list so that he might deliver special lectures on tuberculosis or test herds that cannot be attended to by Lieut.-Col. McCrae. Where special addresses on the use of cement concrete are desired, the services of Messrs. Isaac Usher or Hudson Usher may be obtained.

The list of subjects covers practically everything in the whole range of Canadian farming.

Where to Place the Tank.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In answer to "Subscriber's" query in your October 1st issue on the above subject, I will give my experience of one winter. The tank is placed in the corner of the mow next to the threshing floor, to give sufficient fall for all purposes, and about eighteen inches from either side, and filled with chaff. The space it occupies is my only objection. The pipe leading to tank enters from the basement (which freezes in severe weather), and is protected by a wooden box lined with cloth. I was not troubled with frost at all last winter. In my case an advantage in having tank in the mow is to put in another pipe to convey water to threshing engine, thus avoiding the inconvenience of pumping and hauling for that purpose. WM. FERGUSON, York Co., Ont.

Notes from the Wabigoon Pioneer Farm.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The estimate of the yield of grain on the Pioneer Farm given in your issue of August 2nd will probably be correct; but owing to the fact that we have not threshed as yet, the yield cannot be verified. The potatoes yielded at the rate of 400 bushels per acre; specimens weighed two pounds seven ounces each. The turnip crop was not large, owing chiefly to the extreme dry weather during the growing season—September and the first two weeks in October. This season we have sown two varieties of fall wheat. The Genesee Giant on new land summer-fallow is looking well; the same can be said of the Dawson Velvet Chaff, sown on grass land plowed down, on which the sheep pastured during the early part of the season; but the wheat on the land in which a crop of clover was plowed under has not made satisfactory growth.

On the Pioneer Farm is now cleared about 135 acres. Every stump and snag is taken out while clearing, and the first crop on any of the fields can be cut with a binder. On the farming land there are no rolling stones to hinder working. A large number of the settlers who purchased land in 1896 moved in last spring, and have cleared some land for next year's crop. Some have as much as forty to fifty acres cleared in one season. The markets for the farmers' produce have been good throughout the season. The lowest point reached for butter was 20 cents; eggs, 18 cents; potatoes, 75 cents; etc. The farmers have been able to sell all their produce in Dryden this year, and have not had to ship anything to Rat Portage, the largest town of the district, ninety miles west.

The progress of this section has been extraordinary. Eighteen months ago there was nothing here but the Pioneer House and barn; now the place has the appearance of a thriving settlement; houses are springing up all over the country, some of them being as far away as thirteen miles from the town, which, by the way, contains about 400 people, having six stores, besides flour and feed and lumber merchants. The prices of goods are low, being much the same as in eastern towns. A first-class school, containing the latest improved automatic seats, has been built. The school is also used to hold Presbyterian, Methodist, and English Church services in at present. There are no taxes except a small tax to support the school, levied by the trustees.

To the industrious man having a small capital there are opportunities to be found here to make a home for himself that would be difficult to find elsewhere, with our cheap, easily-cleared land, on the main line of the C. P. R. We have good home market for meats, butter, eggs, etc. During the two years I have been on the Pioneer Farm nothing has been hurt by frosts in summer. The man who is not prepared to work and stand the hardships incident to pioneer life I would advise to stay where he is. A. E. ANNIS.

Wabigoon District, Oct. 19th.

A Doctor Taking His Own Treatment.

In July 15th, 1896, issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, Mr. Thos. Conant makes a strong plea for tree planting, referring to his own work in that direction. Since that time Mr. Conant has made a tour around the world, which has more than ever convinced him of the value, especially of black walnut. The following is from the Oshawa Vindicator, published at Mr. Conant's door:

"In the spring of 1895, Thos. Conant set out on his lands about Oshawa some 10,000 black walnut trees. The intervening summer of 1895 was the driest ever experienced, and yet, owing to the fact that the walnut trees were planted very deep, not more than five per cent. were lost. This fall Mr. Conant is planting 25,000 black walnut nuts and 25,000 shell-bark hickory nuts. The object is to get them in the ground before it is frozen solid in order to let the frost crack open the nuts that they may grow vigorously in the spring, as they do in this manner in a natural state. As to the far-seeing judgment leading to this extensive tree planting there can be no two opinions. It simply means wealth for his family from this source alone, and a benefit to the general public as well. Both of these woods are now extremely valuable, and no one in Canada has yet approached Mr. Conant in tree planting. The walnut nuts were obtained in Western Ontario, and the shell-bark hickory nuts in Michigan. The extensive travelling in all lands has given Mr. Conant valuable ideas, and he is not slow in profiting by them for his own benefit as well as his neighbors."

Whitewash for the Poultry House.

An exchange gives an excellent recipe for whitewash that will not rub off or blister:

"Slake half a bushel of quicklime with boiling water, keeping it covered during the process. Strain it, and add a peck of salt, dissolved in warm water; three pounds of ground rice, put into boiling water and boiled to a thin paste; half a pound of powdered Spanish whiting and a pound of clean glue, dissolved in warm water; mix these well together, and let the mixture stand for several days. Keep the wash thus prepared in a kettle or portable furnace, and put it on as hot as possible. For poultry houses a little carbolic may be added to advantage."