

GOSSIP.

THE GOVERNMENT STOCK SALES.

The convening of the annual meeting of the Dominion Shorthorn Association at Guelph, at the time of the stock sale there, together with the reduced railway fares, brought a large crowd of people to the Royal City on the occasion, and was calculated to give a good send-off to the initial stock sale under Government supervision. The new Provincial Winter Fair building proved admirably adapted to the purpose. The sale was exceedingly well conducted, reflecting credit on the officials and auctioneers, Messrs. John Smith, Brampton; Thomas Ingram, Guelph; and Geo. Jackson, Port Perry, who worked as hard to make it a success as though the stock had been their own. The catalogue, compiled by Mr. Frank Wade, of Toronto, who clerked the sale, was the most complete production of the kind ever seen in this country, and was much appreciated by visitors. There was a large entry of stock for a first venture, the total number of all classes of cattle and hogs contributed to this sale being 194 head, of which 126 were Shorthorns, 6 Herefords, 2 Galloways, 7 Aberdeen-Angus, 19 Ayrshires, 4 Holsteins, 2 Jerseys, 7 Berkshires, 6 Tamworths, and 15 Yorkshires.

The Shorthorn class, as was expected, was the principal feature of the sale. There were a few good things offered, and these sold well, as that class always do, either publicly or privately. Of the 119 sold, only one brought over \$200, and only two others reached that mark. The highest price, \$315, was paid by Mr. N. Dymont, Barrie, for the excellent roan calf, Lord Roberts, calving March 18th, 1900, a broad, blocky fellow, with high-class flesh and plenty of hair. He is of the good "Syme" family, tracing to imp. Louisa, brought out from Scotland by the Millers, of Markham, his sire being the imported Dutch-bred bull, Sirius—15281—his dam by imp. Indian Chief, and grandam by imp. Vengarth, both bred by Amos Cruickshank. This bull was bred and entered by Alex. Moore, Greenwood. The one other bull sold for \$200 was the rich roan, Rantin's Pride, contributed by C. and G. W. Blyth, Marden, and bought by Geo. Jamieson, Lucknow. He was calving March 16th, 1900, sired by Rantin Alex, bred by H. Cargill & Son, is descended from the good old Provincial prize cow, imported Margaret—317—, and is a bull of exceptionally good quality and symmetry, and a bargain at the price. The bull sold for the third highest price, \$160, and for which it was publicly stated that \$200 had been offered at home, was the red two-year-old "Look at Me," bred and entered by Wm. Grainger & Son, Londonboro, sired by Beau Ideal, bred by John Miller & Sons, a son of Sittytton Stamp, and is of the good milking Maid of Atha family. He is a grand young bull, and cheap at the price to the buyer, Mr. T. L. Pardo, M.P.P., Cedar Springs. One other bull reached \$142, and 16 in all sold for \$100 and upwards; while 57 brought less than \$75 each. Fair to medium would be a liberal description of the best half of the remainder, and a look over a large proportion of the other half gave one the feeling that Uncle Abe, of Kentucky, used to say he always experienced on seeing bulls of that class, the feeling of his knife turning over in his pocket. We have often heard it said, "It's a pity to spoil a good steer to make a mean bull," but of a considerable number of these it is not easy to imagine that they would have made decent steers or a higher class than those ranked as "butchers' cattle" for local trade, but all the same, they should have been "cut" when they were younger, and never allowed to reproduce their meanness. That they sold for all they were worth was generally admitted, though in many cases the owners were much disappointed, and since some 35 brought less than \$60 each, and many of these were 18 months and some 2 years old, it is clear they were raised at a loss, having had the whole milk of a cow for 8 months and grain for a year or more, and that as steers they would have paid much better, as the expense and trouble of rearing them would have been much less. An idea of the depth of the inferiority of the tag end may be formed from the fact that 18 bulls brought only \$25 to \$50 each, 10 of them going below \$50. Accepting the statement of a prominent official, that 80 head offered were rejected, one is impressed with the need of missionary work in the Shorthorn Association. It has always been the tendency of this class of sales in Canada to make them the dumping-ground for inferior stuff. Some of the older bulls were bought by local butchers and dealers, and a considerable number of the younger ones by dealers for the ranch trade, but these men were too shrewd to bid on the worst ones, as they knew from experience that a bull must have some shape and constitution to run on the ranch. The quality of this section of the stock caused quite a shock to visitors, who were led to believe that there was to be inspection, and that only good stock in good condition would be accepted. Many were curious to learn who was the inspector, but his identity was not revealed. Otherwise the Shorthorn breeders' meeting might well have voted a leather medal in recognition of the service, and no doubt a resolution to that effect would have carried unanimously, since a motion conveying congratulations to the promoters on the success of the sale was adopted by common consent. Of the 26 Shorthorn females sold, little need be said further than that the prices ranged from \$27 to \$200, one-half selling for \$75 and under, and the \$200 mark being reached in only one case, for a highly-fitted 15-month heifer calf of the old Lydia Langmuir family, slack in her back, light in her thighs, and dear at the price. She was sired by Spicy Robin, a bull bred by J. & W. B. Watt, Salem, was bred and entered by G. D. Fletcher, Binkham, and bought by A. M. Todd, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, who took several animals, the only ones purchased for the States, with the exception of one bull. C. W. Holmes and D. C. Black, of Nova Scotia, took several fairly useful numbers, and Mr. Rattye, of Gore Bay, Manitoulin, bought three or four.

A half dozen Herefords were offered, three of each sex, and they were not a bad lot, but there were few bidders, and four of them were knocked down to Herbert Wright, of Guelph, at prices ranging from \$85 to \$125 for 3 bulls, and \$12 for a heifer coming two in May. One other heifer brought \$80, and the O. A. C. heifer, a year old, was withdrawn at a bid of \$25.

Two very good, useful Galloway bulls were entered by R. D. McRae, Guelph. One coming three in July was sold to R. Shaw, Bramford, at \$72; the other was withdrawn.

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WRITE

HOPE, GRAVELEY & CO.,

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Six Aberdeen-Angus bulls were entered, most of them very good ones, but bids were scarce and prices low, two being withdrawn and four sold at from \$13 to \$85. One yearling heifer was run up to \$72, and knocked down at that figure, but we are informed was not sold to the reputed buyer.

The dairy breeds struck an uncongenial clime at Guelph, and yet Guelph is less than 50 miles from the famous dairy counties of Perth and Oxford, with first-class railway facilities, which makes the result of the sale in this class difficult to account for. There were 11 Ayrshire bulls catalogued, most of them fairly good ones, and all in nice condition, but buyers were much scarcer than bulls, and only two were sold, at \$34 and \$52, the others being withdrawn at absurd bids. Eight cows and heifers, from 2 to 11 years old, were sold at from \$33 to \$75, only three going above \$50, and four at under that figure. They were a very middling lot.

Holsteins were represented by four females of very indifferent character, and sold at from \$22 for a two-year-old heifer, to \$87.50 for a four-year-old cow, three of them going at less than \$50 each. Jerseys were represented by one bull and one cow. The bull, Bim of Dentonia, bred and contributed by Mr. W. E. H. Massey, Toronto, was the champion bull at Toronto Exhibition last year, a first-class animal. He sold for \$125 to J. L. Clarke, Norval, and is a good bargain at the price. The cow was withdrawn.

One would have thought that if anything in live stock would sell well at auction in these days, hogs would go off briskly at fair prices, but such was not the case. Seven Berkshire boars were catalogued, and two were sold at \$5 each. Of course they were inferior. Of five Tamworth boars offered, three were sold at \$8 to \$10. Of five Yorkshire boars offered, four went at from \$8 to \$10, and one was knocked down to F. W. Hodson & Co. at \$25. Nine Yorkshire sows, supposed to be in farrow, were bid off at from \$23 to \$36 each. They would have sold for more at home, or at any farm sale.

THE OTTAWA SALE.

The Government stock sale on the exhibition ground at Ottawa, on March 10th, attracted quite a large attendance, estimated at between 500 and 600, made up, we are informed, largely of recruits for the Baden-Powell South African constabulary, some 100 of whom were camping on the ground, and were not buying bulls. Mr. George Jackson, of Port Perry, was the principal auctioneer, and won golden opinions by his manly and courteous manner and his skill and tact in the conduct of his part of the work. The entries catalogued for the sale included 35 Shorthorns (25 of which were bulls and 10 females), 3 Herefords, 37 Ayrshires (32 of which were bulls and 5 females), 4 Holstein bulls, 5 Jersey bulls, 1 Guernsey, 4 Berkshires, 7 Tamworths, and 17 Yorkshires. The quality and condition of the stock, on the whole, were not better proportionally to the Shorthorn class, in which there was a larger proportion of females than at Guelph, as they averaged better prices at both sales, as they have been doing at all auctions in the country. The record price of the two sales, \$565, was made at Ottawa by the roan yearling Shorthorn bull, Triumph—34066—, bred and contributed by Hon. John Bryden and purchased for the Prince Edward Island Government farm. Needless to say, he was a good one and well bred, being

sired by Revenue—21053—, and out of Miss Lavender, of the Cruickshank Lavender family. The Island Government agent also took the red yearling bull, Patricia, offered by Jeffrey Bros., Whitby, at \$230, while Roan Lad, a yearling, entered by Wm. Ormiston, Jr., Columbus, was taken by Wm. McGarry, M.G., at \$225. These were the only bulls that reached the \$200 mark, the remainder ranging from \$55 to \$180. The highest price for a female was \$210, for Queen Alexandra, a roan yearling of the Zora family, bred and contributed by John Bright, Myrtle, who supplied all the females offered here, and the purchaser in this case was Col. A. M. Todd, the peppermint man from Kalamazoo, Mich., who was the largest buyer at this sale, taking six out of the ten cows and heifers and one bull. Mr. E. B. Elderkin, Amherst, N. S., secured three females at \$80 to \$120 each.

Only one of the three Herefords entered was sold, a cow which brought \$100.

The Ayrshires were a fairly good lot, in good condition, but it was even more chilly for them here than at Guelph, quality considered, and with the exception of one yearling bull, Glenora Dairy King, contributed by Mr. W. W. Ogilvie, Lachine Rapids, Que., and bought by W. C. Edwards, M. P., at \$130, the prices were discouragingly low, running from \$25 to \$100, with only one at that figure, more than one-half of them selling at and under \$50. Of the six females entered, four were sold at an average of \$90, one making \$100.

Three young Holstein bulls were sold at \$22, \$37 and \$50. The latter two, contributed by G. W. Clemons, St. George, were richly bred and good individuals, and were purchased by F. E. Caine, St. Andrews, N. B., and W. J. McNaughton, Lancaster, Ont. Of the five Jersey bulls entered, only one was sold, and that at a ridiculously low price. The one Guernsey bull offered brought \$35. Three Berkshire boars sold at \$10 to \$16, and one sow at \$24; two Tamworth boars at \$10 each, and three sows at \$10 to \$20; six Yorkshire boars at \$10 to \$20, and eight out of eleven sows at \$11 to \$31. Such is the record of the first instalment of stock sales under Government auspices. Whether they will be helpful or otherwise to the pure-bred stock industry, breeders will judge for themselves.

Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association Annual Meeting.

The 15th annual meeting of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association was held at Guelph, February 28th. The attendance was probably the largest on record at an annual meeting of the Association, between 400 and 500 members being present. Mr. Robert Miller, Stouffville, First Vice-President, occupied the chair and ably presided over the business of the meeting. The report of the Secretary and Executive Committee showed that the affairs of the Association are in a very flourishing condition, the registrations in the Herdbook having steadily increased during the last four years, 1900 having been the banner year. The number of registrations paid for last year was 7,990, against 7,063 in 1899 and 5,386 in 1898. The number of transfers in 1900 were 3,397, as against 2,006 in 1899. Four hundred and fifty-eight head of Shorthorns were imported by 16 breeders in 1900, of which 115 were bulls and 343 females. The executive had thought it advisable, on solicitation of the Live Stock Commissioner, as an experiment, to make the Ontario members of the Association members of the Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association, paying from the funds the sum of 50 cents per capita, amounting to \$475, the money to be used for prizes at the Winter Show, and to be under the control of the Executive of the Shorthorn Breeders' Association, to be apportioned as was thought advisable.

The attention of the Executive had been called to a shipment of Shorthorn cattle taken to Manitoba by one A. C. Smith, formerly of Guelph, now said to be of Carman, Man., and upon examination had found that two of the bulls, namely, Ringleader 2nd—2701—and Sampson—27284—both recorded by A. C. Smith, were pronounced forgeries and at once cancelled. A. C. Smith was also expelled from the Association.

The financial statement showed the receipts, including \$8,513, balance on hand at last annual meeting, to have been \$19,131, and the expenditures \$11,211, leaving a cash balance on hand of \$8,220.

The recommendation of the Executive that \$2,925 be offered as prize money at the fall shows, and \$600 at the Winter Fair for Shorthorns and Shorthorn grades, was approved. Of this, \$1,000 to be offered at Toronto Exhibition, and \$500 at the Western Fair, London, on condition that those Fair Boards give a similar amount in prizes to this class. To Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition, \$500; Brandon, \$250; To Ottawa, Sherbrooke, Que.: St. John, N. B.; Halifax, N. S.; Charlottetown, P. E. I.; and New Westminster, B. C., \$100 each; Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and Alberta, \$25 each.

A resolution conveying a message of condolence to the widow and daughter of the late Mr. John I. Hobson, President of the Association, was unanimously adopted. A motion by Major J. A. McGillivray, seconded by Mr. A. W. Smith, conveying congratulations to the Dominion Minister of Agriculture and the Live Stock Commissioner on the success of the stock sale, was declared carried without dissent.

OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 1901.

President, Robt. Miller, Stouffville, Ont.; 1st Vice-President, Wm. Linton, Aurora, Ont.; 2nd Vice-President, W. G. Pettit, Freeman, Ont.; Vice-Presidents from Provinces—A. W. Smith, Maple Lodge, Ont.; F. G. Boyer, Georgetown, P. E. I.; W. H. Ladner, Ladner, B. C.; James A. Cochrane, Hillhurst, Que.; Geo. A. Fawcett, Sackville, N. B.; R. A. Wallace, High River, Alta.; C. A. Archibald, Truro, N. S.; W. H. Heubach, Touchwood Hills, Assa.; J. E. Smith, Brandon, Man.; Board of Directors: C. List—W. D. Cargill, Cargill; W. Dymont, Barrie; John Isaacs, Markham; Geo. Raikes, Barrie; C. M. Simmons, Ivan, B. List—W. J. Biggins, Clinton; Wm. B. Watt, Salem; Jas. Tolton, Walkerton; W. D. Platt, Hamilton; John Davidson, Ashburn. A list—Edward Jeffs, Bondhead; H. Smith, Hay; T. E. Robson, M. P. P., Ilderton; James M. Gardhouse, Highfield; Thos. Russell, Exeter. Executive and Finance Committee—Robt. Miller, Stouffville, Ont.; Arthur Johnston, Greenwood, Ont.; W. D. Platt, Hamilton; W. G. Pettit, Freeman; and H. Smith, Hay. Delegates to Industrial Exhibition, Hon. John Bryden, Brooklin; R. Miller, Stouffville. To Western Fair, Henry Smith, Hay, Ont.; C. M. Simmons, Ivan, Ont.; To Central Fair, Ottawa

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R. R. Sangster, Lancaster, Ont.; D. McLaren, Dunmore, Ont. To Provincial Exhibition, Nova Scotia—S. Dickie, Pt. Williams; C. W. Holmes, Amherst. To Provincial Exhibition, New Brunswick—Senator Josiah Wood, Sackville, N. B.; Geo. A. Fawcett, Sackville, P. E. I. To Provincial Exhibition, Prince Edward Island—C. C. Gardiner, Charlottetown, P. E. I.; F. G. Boyer, Georgetown, P. E. I. To Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition—Hon. T. Greenway, Crystal City, Man.; W. S. Lister, Middle Church, Man. Secretary and Editor, Henry Wade, Parliament Buildings, Toronto. Directors to Cattle Breeders' Association, A. Johnston, T. E. Robson, M. P. P.

Massey-Harris Company Delivery at Hamilton.

The citizens of Hamilton were considerably astonished at the spectacle presented by the farmers assembled to obtain their spring goods from the Massey-Harris Agent in Hamilton. Some 75 wagons and sleighs were loaded with implements, including binders, mowers, rakes, drills, and cultivators, the greater number being mowers and binders.

About 150 guests and patrons of the Company sat down to a sumptuous repast. The energetic agent of the Company in Hamilton, Mr. Henning, was to be seen busily caring for the wants of his numerous customers. After the dinner, a procession was formed, which paraded the principal streets.

Farm Hands, for general work, including milking, are wanted in British Columbia. See the advertisement in this paper of Mr. G. T. Corfield, Corfield, B. C.

Model Cattle Stall Fixtures.—The attention of farmers and stockmen is called to the advertisement, in this issue, of the new patent cattle stall feeding and watering system and special cattle tie placed upon the market by Mr. A. M. Rush, Hamilton, Ont. It will cost only a postage stamp to secure the circular giving information as to the merits of the invention, and we advise farmers to apply for this and look into the matter, as in building or remodeling stables it is important to have the most convenient and complete arrangements for feeding and watering and economizing space.

Thorold Hydraulic Cement.—The estate of John Battle, manufacturers of the well-known Thorold cement, report having had a very busy year during 1900, and from the hundreds of farmers with whom they are in correspondence and who have been given estimates and drawings and advice regarding the structures they intend building, and who took advantage of the good sleighing to get the gravel, etc., hauled, the outlook for the present year is most favorable. The large number of silos erected all over Ontario with Thorold cement during the past year would indicate that the farmers are about tired of the wooden silo. The estate of John Battle strongly recommend the octagon silo, as it is nearly round, and the round silo is considered by all farmers the best-shaped silo.

Machine Sheep Shearing.—We are asked a great many times, will it pay to buy a sheep-shearing machine? Our answer is that it will pay a sheep owner, if he has 25 sheep or more, to invest in a hand power sheep-shearing machine, the price of which is \$15. The principal advantages of shearing sheep by machinery are as follows: Sheep are not butchered or hacked as we have seen them done by hand; the machine leaves them as smooth as a billiard ball. Then again, there are no second cuts, which depreciate the value of the wool. The staple is left longer, which also increases the value of the wool from one to two cents a lb., according to London market. Machine-shearing saves from one-half to one and one-half pounds of wool off each sheep. Again, the greatly improved appearance of the sheep after being machine shorn must be taken into consideration, which is an important item. They can be dipped or sent to the market immediately after shearing. Unlike the hand shears, no skilled labor is required, and sheep can be shorn much faster by machine without the operator being troubled with sore wrists as when using the hand shears. Shearing with the machine is so much easier, and does the work so much better, that when your day's work is done you feel satisfied that it has been well done.

At the London, England, Shire Horse Show, Feb. 26th to March 1st, the cup for the best of the young stallions went to Messrs. Walwyn's Bearwardote Blaze, with Messrs. Thompson's Desford Combination as reserve. For the cup for the best stallion above three years old, the chief candidates were Messrs. Forshaw & Sons' Stroxtom Tom, Mr. John Rowell's Bury Premier Duke, Lord Middleton's Menestrel, and Mr. Green's Moors Regent. Stroxtom Tom was a popular winner, with Bury Premier Duke as reserve. The champion cup for the best stallion was awarded, after a protracted struggle, to Bearwardote Blaze, Stroxtom Tom being reserve.