

brought 4,100 and 4,300 guineas respectively, or about \$44,000 for the pair.

At Toronto, in 1875, at a sale held in conjunction with Simon Beattie and Wm. Miller, 3 females of Mr. Cochrane's sold for \$21,400, and 3 bulls for \$9,000, or \$30,850 for 6 animals. At this sale Airdrie Duchess 5th was sold for \$18,000, and 5th Duke of Hillhurst, a 3-months-old calf, for \$8,300. At another sale in Toronto in 1876, in connection with Simon Beattie and John Hope, 13 animals, the property of Messrs. Cochrane & Beattie, sold for an average of \$1,133.84. At this sale Airdrie Duchess 2nd brought \$21,000, and Airdrie Duchess 3rd, \$23,600.

From the six Duchesses purchased from Mr. Murray, of Wisconsin, namely, 10th Duchess of Airdrie and her five daughters, for which he paid \$30,000, Mr. Cochrane sold in six years \$180,000 worth of stock, and two of the family had died in the meantime. These look like fabulous figures, and the world may never see the record repeated, but it makes a man famous to have played such a part in such a drama, and it is not wonderful that, like the old soldier who shoulders his crutch and shows how fields were won, the mind of the man who acted the part should involuntarily turn to a recollection of its thrilling episodes, and that he find a real pleasure in repeating the story. Those were halcyon days, when the difficulty with a breeder was not to find buyers, but to hold what he did not wish to part with, the importunity of those wanting stock being so great that the owner had to set his teeth when he said no, or he would soon have nothing left if he named a price.

THE HILLHURST OF TO-DAY.

Senator Cochrane is one of the very few level-headed men whose business sagacity carried them safely over and through the boom, and the secret, no doubt, lay in unloading before the bubble burst, for the inevitable reaction came, and collapse and failure was the fate of many who followed the ignis fatuus too far. The indomitable spirit of the man and his natural love for live stock still burned brightly, and Mr. Cochrane and his son, Mr. James A. Cochrane, who has inherited the same sentiment, turned their attention to other lines of stock as their principal interest, though still maintaining a small herd of Shorthorns, and in the eighties extensive importations were made of high-class Hereford and Aberdeen-Angus cattle, which were brought out to the leading exhibitions in the pink of condition, sweeping the prize lists and selling for good prices, several auction sales showing averages of \$400 to \$700. But some years ago the last of these was transferred to the extensive cattle ranch established in 1881 near the foothills of the Rockies, in Alberta, and which, under the management of a younger son, Mr. W. E. Cochrane, is paying even better dividends than the older Hillhurst.

THE HACKNEY STUD.

Ever alert, and reading between the lines the signs of the times, the men at the helm at Hillhurst were among the first to see the need and the demand for a handsome, high-stepping class of carriage horses in America, and having faith in the future of that demand, were not slow to back it by importing largely of the best that could be bought in England, the home of the Hackney. As a result the stalls and paddocks of Hillhurst are at present largely occupied by sires and dams of fashionable Hackney lineage, and by their offspring of various ages, strong in the best characteristics of the breed, the famous old Trifflits, Fireaway and Denmark blood predominating, the latter chiefly through the Royal blood of Garton Duke of Cannought, the most successful sire of harness horses in England, *Barthorpe Performer*, the leading sire at Hillhurst being the first of his get to cross the Atlantic. Size, nearly solid colors, length of neck and quarters, with perfect knee and hock action, seem to distinguish the get of the two great imported sires at the head of the stud, Hayton Shales and Barthorpe Performer. Mr. James A. Cochrane, who is a genuine lover of a good horse and an acknowledged expert judge, claims for his favorites, the Hackneys, both pure-bred and half-bred, the place of a general purpose horse and special adaptability for farm work on sandy loam soils and hilly country, on account of their activity, hardiness and level-headedness, being free from the nervous irritableness of most classes of light horses. The Scotch plowmen on the farm say they can do much more work with them than with Clydesdales, and we can testify to seeing a team of imported Hackney mares hauling heavy loads of grain up long hills, resting midway, and putting their shoulders to the load to start again as steadily as the heaviest teams would do. In many parts of Canada it is impracticable to produce the most valuable class of draft horses, while the carriage horse will do the farmer's work equally well, the best specimens being readily salable at good prices, and fitted for many more places in the hands of the wealthy classes.

A NEW IMPORTATION OF SHORTHORNS.

It is a significant circumstance that so soon after the turn of the tide in favor of Shorthorns, after the depression that prevailed for several years, we find a new importation of ten head of the old-time favorites, one bull and nine females, in quarantine at Quebec to replenish the useful herd of some fifty head already at Hillhurst. The newcomers were selected in England by the expert judge, Mr. John Thornton, chiefly from strong herds in Cumberland and Gloucestershire, noted for milking as well as for breeding qualities, a choice which would seem to indicate in this line also a preference for dual purpose animals.

THE SHROPSHIRE.

About 500 sheep are kept on the farm, about 150 of which are pure-bred Shropshires, imported and bred straight from imported stock, only first-class imported rams being used. The flock is strictly up-to-date, and has supplied many prizewinning show lots in recent years to breeders in the United States and the Provinces. A small flock of Dorset Horn sheep is kept, the balance of the flock being feeding sheep of various grades, which are fattened for the markets.

Hillhurst, as seen in the early days of October, the full foliage of its ample shade trees brilliantly tinted by the touch of the first frost, is the same pretty place which charmed us on the occasion of our first visit some thirty years ago. Nature has done much for this beautifully picturesque district, the Eastern Townships of the Province of Quebec, and Hillhurst, with its 1,000 broad acres of field and woodland, is delightfully located. The line of the Grand Trunk Railway, running from Montreal to Portland, passes through the farm, and Hillhurst station is less than a mile from the homestead, 1,000 feet above the sea, looking down on the fertile valley of the Coaticook River, which to the coming and departing visitors at Hillhurst farm seems to murmur,

"Men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever."

Our Export of Fine Fruits.

BY A. H. PETTIT.

In regard to our shipments of summer fruits in cold storage this season to the English market, I can only give probable results, account of sales not being to hand yet, but sufficient information has been gained to look forward with confidence that we can by wise selection, careful packing, and a better system of distribution in that market, place a large quantity to good advantage. Prices realized are not sufficiently remunerative when you take into consideration the care and labor bestowed; promptness must characterize every move. Fruit cannot be allowed to ripen on the trees before picking; packages cannot be allowed to stand in a warm atmosphere, allowing the ripening process to go on, but should at once be placed in cold storage, and from that moment until landed in the English mar-



A STRONG MOUNT.

MAJOR A. H. GRIESBACH AND SERGEANT-MAJOR J. T. FLINTOFF,
"G" DIVISION N.-W. M. P., FORT SASKATCHEWAN, N.-W. T.

ket the temperature should remain at, say 36 degrees, as near as possible. Some reports from the other side say peaches and tomatoes have been too cold, condition bad; but experience will in time regulate defects of this nature. Pears stand at the head of the list, arriving in good condition and realizing moderate prices. They were chiefly sold at Bristol, and if I understand correctly, it is the center of the fruit-growing district of England. Perhaps later on we may reach more desirable markets.

Another point of vital importance is the distribution. We are trying to place our summer fruits before the English consumer as widely as we possibly can in order to hear some expression of their appreciation of the quality of our fruits. Only small quantities have gone forward—one carload per week—and they sold under the hammer, and no doubt jobbers securing a large proportion under that system. I can well understand the prestige that would be given to this experimental work for experimental it is as yet if our fruits were placed in some of the leading fruit stores, where they might promptly reach the consuming classes who want the best in quality that can be obtained, and we Canadians cherish the opinion that Canadian fruit cannot be excelled in quality by any country. If there is one defect in our fruit for the foreign market it is its high quality, rendering it more delicate to transport. Later in the season we have that clear autumn sky and cool nights that give a bloom to our apples that speaks volumes for their high and long-keeping qualities.

Now, a Canadian fruit-grower's views on this subject would not be complete without mentioning the extravagant nature of the charges that between the orchard and the market are produced. Canadian farmers and fruit-growers are taxing their best judgment to lessen the cost of production by various methods: while our railways and express companies heavily subsidized by the people of this country, in many instances arrange to transport fruit at a rate ought to be sufficiently remunerative to the grower.

performed, but the highest possible that the product will bear and not prohibit the export. And, again, when the distribution begins, one becomes amazed at the various items of expense, together with the "slack," "wet," and waste that occur in the account of sales. One often feels thankful when he gets his hat back again. Reduced charges for transportation, a thorough method of ventilation on board ship to prevent the generation of heat that will be created in close quarters, causing the fruit to ripen too rapidly, and some more economical and thorough system of distribution would greatly increase the development of the industry to the advantage of all concerned.

Agricultural Exports from Toronto, Ont.

In the year 1897 there passed through Toronto market: Cattle, 138,156; sheep, 88,400; hogs, 217,705; being an increase over 1896 of 33,200 cattle, 23,061 hogs, and a decrease of 7,215 sheep. For the eleven months ending November 30th, 1898, the numbers were: Cattle, 138,579; sheep, 78,373; hogs, 276,830; being an increase of 423 cattle, a decrease of 10,097 sheep, and an increase of 59,094 hogs.

Over \$98,000 worth of goods passed through the customs house in Toronto in the first week of December: Bacon, \$60,000; apples, \$3,000; turkeys, \$10,000; clover seed, \$12,000; wheat, \$2,000; peas, \$1,000; dried apples, \$1,000; oatmeal, \$2,000; cattle, \$2,000; horses, \$1,000.

There was a falling off of imports as compared with November, 1897, while the exports rose from \$504,261 to \$790,021. The whole increase was due to the farm, the exports of agricultural products being more than doubled, and the exports of animals \$158,000 more than they were a year ago, \$60,000 hog products in the shape of bacon being consigned to the Old Country. This is a record for the Toronto customs house.

The Holly and the Christmas Tree.

In connection with the holly, which figures so conspicuously in all our Christmas decorations, we find a quaint old conceit chronicled—that every holly bough and lump of berries with which you adorn your house is an act of natural piety as well as beauty, and will in summer enable you to relish that green world of which you show yourself not unworthy. In Germany and Scandinavia the holly, or holy tree, is called "Christ's thorn," from its use in church decorations, and because it bears its berries at Christmastide. The loving sentiment imprisoned in the holly bough and translatable into every language, can hardly be more happily expressed than in Charles Mackay's verses, "Under the Holly Bough":

Ye who have scorned each other,
Or injured friend or brother,
In this fast-fading year:
Ye who by word or deed
Have made a kind heart bleed,
Come, gather here!
Let sinned against and sinning
Forget their strife's beginning,
And join in friendship now;
Be links no longer broken,
Be sweet forgiveness spoken,
Under the holly bough.

To Germany the civilized world is indebted for one of the most enjoyable of all Christmas delights, the Christmas tree. This custom was little known in England before the marriage of Queen Victoria, and was, we believe, introduced by the late Prince Consort. We call it a gift from Germany, and yet, behind the quaint figure of Kris Kringle, coming from the snowy woods, with the tree rising high above the genial shoulders, laden with gifts and glittering with lanterns, as he suddenly invades the lowly German cottage on kindly errand bent, we see the yet more ancient toy pine-tree; hung with *oscilla*, which boys and girls in ancient Rome looked for on the sixth and seventh days of the Saturnalia. But we who are not antiquaries are content to accept these pretty customs, come whence they may, and to improve on them if we can. A wide gulf is fixed between the Puritanic days, when Christmas was frowned upon as a remnant of evil superstition, and to-day, when nothing is too rare or good for the making of our homes bright and our sanctuaries beautiful in honor of the author of The Christian Feast.

The Family Failing.

Louisa is a charming girl, with whom I love to linger:
I'd give a fortnight of my life to kiss her little finger.
Her people are intensely dull, but highly scientific:
They go in for "collecting" with an ardor quite terrific.

Old pottery and china are her mother's special fancy:
Her father's simply mad on books that treat on necromancy;
Her aunt goes in for butterflies, her grandpapa for fiddles:
Her brothers hoard up autographs and postage stamps and riddles.

I used to think she had escaped the family infection,
But now I find it breaking out in quite a new direction.
For there she stands, with witching eyes and winsome artifices,
Beneath the friendly mistletoe, collecting heaps of kisses.

A Strong Mount.

The Northwest Mounted Police, as fine a body of men as the British red coat, are supplied with horses from Alberta ranches. The accompanying photograph, taken near Fort Saskatchewan, illustrates what beautiful, strong, and sturdy western-bred horses make.