

TE. Your sub-
interesting and
compliments

T. "We re-
Christmas day,
I am trying to
Wishing you the

"Have re-
THE ADVOCATE

"Received the
ADVOCATE last
magnificent and
AR."

Issue for the 15th
y fine. My con-

ement Works,
er of your paper
to congratulate
roduction. May

RIPTION.

t. "Christmas
hand. I would
subscription. To
pression, I would

Stock.

prices paid for
thorns from the
on, last month,
this issue, where
nearly sixty ani-
statistics and the
both in the United
e, namely, that
f cattle in both
ing for the sharp
in the leading
well as for breed-
u of Agriculture
e extent of the
in that country
n seven million
he large drafts
at two years of
s as well as of
ds by American
upon our stock
of largely dimin-
da; and since a
are engaged in
and their grade
o presume that
e to make good
means large, and
to feed for the
best markets are
he general pros-
s and the conse-
of the average
e last few years,
this prosperity,
prove the home
an afford to buy
ances, and the
er is seeking to
amounts almost
cattle will rule
at the demand
sustained and

during the past
atisfactory, and
ing, while the
the breeds has
erally than for
ttle paid their
the years of de-
will certainly
se better times.
ys more money
and whose skim
o each year, is

e continued in
ers have reaped
ir flocks, while
f wool renders
eddingly bright.
d a ready mar-

ket at good prices, and the requirements of the war are likely to have a considerable influence in stiffening values. While the market for pork has not been as satisfactory during the past year as could be wished, both the prices and the prospects are improving, and the temper recently shown by feeders will doubtless have the effect of leading dealers to see that unless fair prices are paid the supply will soon be restricted; meanwhile, farmers, and especially those engaged in dairying, cannot afford to drop the pig out of their operations, since by his aid a large amount of cheap food, which would otherwise be wasted, is profitably utilized. There is this to be truly said of the pork industry, that though prices for the product fluctuate more than is desirable, yet they average well, taking the years as they come, and if care be observed in preparing hogs for market at the most favorable seasons, the returns will be found fairly remunerative.

A review of the business of the past year and a forecast of the future from the standpoint of the farmer, if carefully made, can lead to but the one conclusion, that live stock is pre-eminently the principal factor in the agricultural prosperity now being experienced. Prices for grain in any line have not appreciably advanced, even a war of considerable gravity, and likely to continue for a considerable time, having failed to cause even a ripple on the market for wheat, while coarse grains have found their best paying market through being fed to cattle and other stock on the farm. This fact is well established in so far at least as the Province of Ontario is concerned, by the recently issued report of the Bureau of Industries for 1898, which shows that while the value of the crops of the field in that Province was greater by three and one-half millions in 1898 than in 1897, the value of the live stock killed and sold in 1898 was greater by four and three-quarter millions than it was the previous year. Again, while the total value of farm property in Ontario increased by eighteen millions in a year, the value of live stock alone shows an increase of ten millions in the same time. The outlook for live stock in all lines is decidedly encouraging, but a review of the situation will fail to teach its best lesson if the fact is not noted that there is still a great gulf between the top and bottom prices in the markets for cattle especially, and also for several other lines of stock, and that the only way to get into the procession that leads to the best prices is to improve the quality of the stock to be fed by good breeding and good feeding combined. Good blood is a factor that goes a long way in determining the difference between low prices and high prices, even in the meat market, and is an essential to success in breeding pedigree stock, and generous feeding is twin brother to good blood in working out a favorable balance sheet for the feeder.

STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

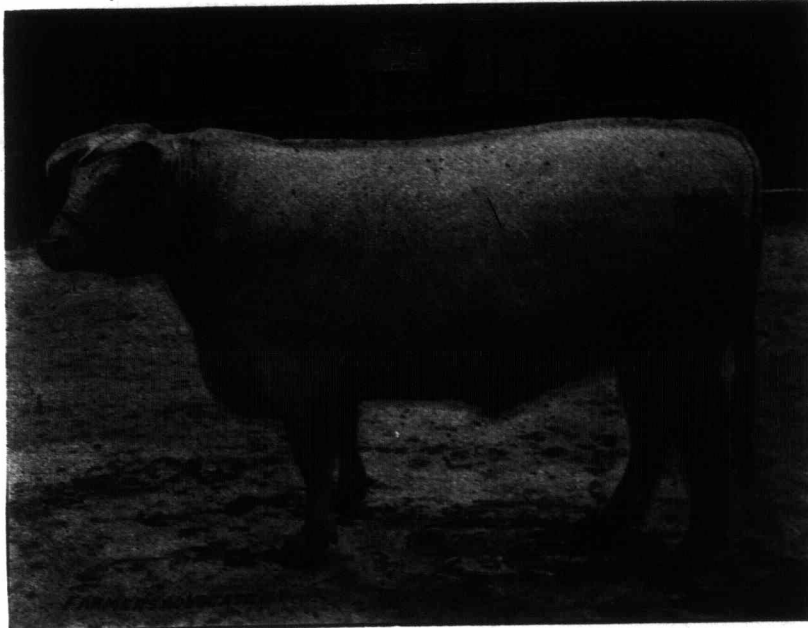
THE SMITHFIELD SHOW.

The great fat stock show season is over, and many useful lessons may be learned from the results. Some years ago, when Her Majesty the Queen's herd took leading prizes, certain organs of the press and some ill-advised correspondents took up a position of antagonistic criticism, with the result that the Queen's managers ceased to purchase cattle likely to prove winners, and confined themselves to the exhibition of animals bred on the Royal farms. To this no possible exception could be taken, and Her Majesty has been a more successful exhibitor than ever. At the Smithfield Club show just closed she has won the championships in the Devon and in the Hereford sections, and the supreme championship over all breeds with her champion Hereford steer, and she has also won the championship in the carcass competition with an Aberdeen-Angus steer—all three being bred by herself. The Herefords and the Devons are kept at the Royal Flemish farm, Windsor, and the Black Polled cattle at the farm of Abergeldie Mains, in Aberdeenshire. The Flemish farm, as well as the Prince Consort's show farm at Windsor, where the Shorthorn herd is kept, are under the control of Mr. William Tait, a Scotchman, who succeeded his father, and an extremely able man, as well as a great favorite with his royal mistress, as he well deserves to be. Nothing could have been more ill-advised than the attacks made on this Queen's managers a few years ago for showing stock which they purchased and

brought out. The royal herds were good customers to tenant farmers, and the only effect of these unmannerly attacks has been to deprive these farmers of a good market, and to demonstrate more conclusively than ever the ability of those entrusted with the management of Her Majesty's private affairs.

The Royal champion Hereford of this year is admittedly one of the finest animals of the breed ever exhibited. He weighed 1,936 lbs. at 2 years 11 months 3 weeks old, and was brought out in perfect form, finished level and true, and carrying his flesh without trouble. It is, however, an indication of the views entertained by London butchers of the flesh of such overfed animals, that none of them bought him. He was secured by a Welsh butcher all the way from Cardiganshire. Her Majesty's champion Devon was a heifer, beautifully finished, but of course much less in weight than the Hereford. At 2 years 8 months 1 week she scaled 1,316 lbs., and was a picture. With the possible exception of Aberdeen-Angus cattle, no breed gives more weight and quality at an early age than the Devon, and they are in high favor with London butchers.

The Shorthorn championship went to a famous north country breeder, the veteran Mr. James Bruce, of Inverquhomery, Aberdeenshire. His representative was a lengthy white steer, aged 2 years 11 months 3 weeks and 5 days, when his weight was 2,018 lbs., certainly a remarkable weight, and one which explains the success of the Shorthorn as a great crossing sire. This will in all probability be Mr. Bruce's last appearance in the showing. He is now over 80 years of age, and last summer sold off his herd. His career has been pre-eminently honorable and worthy of universal imitation. He early saw the advantage of exhibiting at fat stock in preference to summer breeding shows, and for many years Inverquhomery steers were seldom absent from Smithfield. When they



SHORTHORN STEER, FREE TRADE.

Winner of first prize and championship over all beef breeds at Guelph and Ontario Provincial Fat Stock Shows, 1899.

BRED AND EXHIBITED BY MR. HARRY SMITH, HAY, ONT.

appeared they were usually in the prize list. Mr. Bruce's cattle are not absolutely of the Scottish type. They are longer, and carry themselves with more style and gaiety. Their owner had an ideal of his own, and earnestly strove to attain it. He has had his reward, and victory was never more popular than when Mr. Bruce won.

Aberdeen-Angus cattle are rather in the background this year, but this is not to be regretted. The cause is the great demand for bulls and heifers for breeding purposes. The breed championship went to the Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne for his heifer, Victoria of Glamis, which at 2 years 11 months 6 days scaled 1,850 lbs. She is a good straight heifer, but not equal in merit to the former Glamis champions, Minx of Glamis and Ju-Ju of Glamis, both of which took the highest honors at this show. It is noteworthy that from 1892-99, inclusive, the supreme honors at the Smithfield Club have been taken four times by A.-A. heifers, twice by Galloway-Shorthorn crosses, once by a Shorthorn, and once by a Hereford. All the breed champions this year up to this point were bred by their exhibitors, but in the Galloway, Highlander, and cross-bred sections it was otherwise.

The Galloway champion was the most magnificent bullock of the breed ever seen in a showyard. He is named Substance, was bred by Messrs. McCormick & Mathison, Mindork, Newton-Stewart, and trained by Messrs. Thomas Biggar & Sons, Chapelton, Dalbeattie. He was breed champion at Edinburgh as well as at London, and for back, ribs, and especially hind quarters, his equal has rarely, if ever, been seen. At 2 years 10½ months he weighed 1,964 lbs., and it will be surprising if he does not kill better than any other of the breed champions at this show. For quality of flesh we will back him against the field, and the London

butcher who bought him paid within a fraction of 7d. per lb. for him live weight. London butchers do not fight shy of Galloways and Highlanders; they buy the lot and give nobody else a look in.

The Highland champion was a grand bullock named Perthshire's Hope, bred at Rochastle, and owned by Sir William Ogilvie-Dalgleish, Bart. He was catalogued as 3½ years old, and weighed 1,940 lbs. At the Edinburgh Show in the previous week he was placed second, but nobody except the judges there thought that a right decision. As a specimen of the Highland breed few can beat this animal, and he will likely be sold at a big price per pound to the London swells.

The English pure breeds were fairly well represented, Sussex cattle being a kind of parallel to the Galloway, and the Welsh runts to the Highlanders. These are in favor with London butchers. Red Polled are doing no more than holding their own.

Cross-bred cattle are a most interesting section at all fat stock shows, and this year some novel crosses have been presented. The pick of the section at London were bred in Ross-shire by Mr. J. Ross, Meikle Tarrel, Fearn, and Mr. J. Douglas Fletcher, of Rosehaugh. The championship of the section, as well as the reserve championship of the whole show, went to a Norfolk feeder, Mr. W. C. Learner, for a heifer named Let 'em All Come, bred by Mr. Ross and got by his great Shorthorn bull, Ringleader, out of one of his best breeding cross polled cows. This heifer is a model, and at 2 years 9 months 1 week she weighed 1,850 lbs. The reserve in the section was Mr. Fletcher's champion steer at Inverness and Edinburgh, and, as it turned out, the reserve to the Queen's Hereford as the best steer at London. He is named Sunray, and but for standing a little bit high on the leg he is a perfect bullock. His breeding is A.-A. sire and Shorthorn dam, and his weight at 2 years 7 months 1 week 3 days, 2,228 lbs., by a long way, age and weight considered, the best example of early maturity seen out this year. Mr. Fletcher, like the Queen, only shows what he breeds, and he is not afraid to try experiments in crossing. He stood reserve champion in the carcass competition with a young bullock 22 months old, got by an A.-A. bull, out of a Hereford cow, and he showed a beautiful pair of the same kind at Inverness. He also showed a capital cross heifer at Inverness, got by a Shorthorn bull, out of a Sussex cow. She weighed 1,470 lbs. at 23 months 7 days, and is a capital handler, very firm and level in flesh, but rather long in the legs.

Amongst sheep Mr. Fletcher also experiments, and was well placed at London in the carcass competition with a South-down-Cheviot cross. His aim is to produce what the public want, and all his experiments are at present directed to the development of early maturity, along with plenty lean meat. Those who understand the question will readily admit that the laird of Rosehaugh is doing a great public benefit by following out such experiments.

The sheep department at all the shows this winter has been characterized by unusual success for the Blackface mountain breed. At Edinburgh a pen of three wether hogs, bred and exhibited by Mr. John McDowall, of Girdstingwood, Kirkcudbright, secured the championship of the whole show. They went to London, and again secured the championship over all the long-wool breeds, being, however, beaten in the final by the Suffolks and the Southdowns. The ages of this pen are 19½ months, and their joint weight 675 lbs. In the carcass competition at London a Blackface wether hog, owned by Mr. Alexander Guild, Greenhead, Pencaitland, was champion over all breeds and crosses, beating the Southdowns, Suffolks, Cheviots, Hampshires, and all other sorts. This was a beautiful carcass of mutton, and naturally the breeders of Scottish mountain sheep feel uplifted. Everybody in the north knew theirs was the choicest mutton, but it required the carcass competition to demonstrate the fact to the London butchers and the London public. It has been done now, and done well.

Considerable interest has been manifested in the different results from the two great shows of last summer, the Royal at Maidstone and the Highland at Edinburgh. In the former case there has been made a loss of £26,000, and in the latter a profit of £4,000. It was pretty obvious to visitors to both shows that Edinburgh would issue in a profit and Maidstone in a loss, but possibly no one imagined that the figures in either case would be so high. Both were purely agricultural shows, and local circumstances alone contributed to the different results. At Maidstone the Royal was away in a corner of England, sparsely populated, with no large town nearer than London, and an agricultural population all round interested in the one industry of hop-growing. Hence, it was impossible that a show of the dimensions of the Royal could, under such circumstances, pay. Londoners, it has over and over again been proved, do not attend any agricultural show unless it be held right in their midst. Hence the immense concourse of people who throng the Smithfield Club Show in the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington. On Tuesday last, the second day of the present show, 14,000 passed the turnstiles, and