

STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

The cattle and horse sales held during the past months have borne renewed witness to the buoyancy of the home market for breeding stock. The Aberdeen-Angus sales have included drafts from an old-established, hardy herd, owned by Mr. William Wilson, at Coynachie, in the uplands of Aberdeenshire, also from the Blairmore herd of Mr. Alexander Geddes, in the same upper district, from the renowned Ballindalloch herd of Sir George Macpherson Grant, Bart., which this year has taken the very best positions in the principal showyards, from the Inchgower herd in Banffshire, the Countess of Seafield's Cullen House herd in the same county, the Glen of Rothes herd in Morayshire, Colonel Stirling's Kippendavie herd in Perthshire, the famous herd of Mr. Clement Stephenson at Newcastle, and the herd of the Earl of Airlie at Cortachy in Forfarshire. The principal Scottish Shorthorn sales take place in October, but there have already been important draft sales from the herds of Mr. Robert Thompson, at Inglewood, and Lord Brougham and Vaux, near Penrith, in Cumberland, and Mr. Deane Willis' herd in Wiltshire. A notable feature of the sales has been the patronage bestowed on them by royalty. The representatives of Her Majesty the Queen and the Prince of Wales have been good buyers at several of the sales, generally taking off the best and highest-priced animals.

The Coynachie herd is not a fancy one, but the cattle are famous in Aberdeenshire for their genuine beef qualities, and Mr. Wilson has often topped the bullock sales at Aberdeen with the produce of his herd. The bull calves annually sold from the herd are in favor with the smaller farmers in Aberdeenshire, who readily buy them up in spring. The cows have a milky appearance not quite common amongst the blackskins. The averages at the sale were these: 9 cows, £18 4s.; 14 two-year-old heifers, £20 11s.; 20 yearling heifers, £13 8s. 3d.; 16 heifer calves, £9 9s. 8d.; and 2 bulls, £11 5s. 9d. Mr. Geddes, of Blairmore, is an Aberdonian who went out early in life to seek a fortune, and having found it came home and settled down in his native glen, purchasing the estate of Blairmore from the Duke of Fife. His herd is more of a fancy one than that at Coynachie, and he has more than once given high prices for good cattle. Unfortunately his sale took place in very rough weather, which doubtless interfered with the bidding. The averages, however, are eminently satisfactory: 34 cows, £27 5s. 4d.; 8 two-year-old heifers, £27 16s. 6d.; 13 yearling heifers, £22 13s. 11d.; 8 heifer calves, £12 14s. 7d.; and 4 bull calves, £14 0s. 10d. The record sale was held at Ballindalloch. The Queen's representative gave 300 gs. for the cow Eurya; Colonel Smith, of Minmore, 130 gs. for Erauthis; Sir T. Gibson Carmichael, Bart., 125 gs. for the two-year-old heifer Elap, and Dr. Profeit 130 gs. for the yearling heifer Encolonia. The five-year-old bull Prince Iliad made 180 gs., the buyer being Sir T. D. Gibson Carmichael. The averages were: 12 cows, £76 9s. 6d.; 10 two-year-old heifers, £12 4s. 2d.; 11 yearling heifers, £19 7s. 1d.; 6 heifer calves, £28 3s. 6d.; and one bull, £189. The Cullen House stock sold very well: 18 cows drew £23 4s. 4d.; 6 two-year-old heifers, £20 18s. 6d.; 3 yearling heifers, £17 3s.; and 1 bull, £19 19s. Inchgower had scarcely as high an average, but the sales ran each other close. The figures realized there were: 17 cows, £22 17s.; 9 two-year-old heifers, £21 3s. 6d.; 8 one-year-old heifers, £21 3s. 11d.; 6 heifer calves, £16 5s. 6d.; 5 bulls and bull calves, £27 14s. 4d. The Glen of Rothes lot were useful cattle, but in no sense fancy. There 7 cows made £19 5s. 5d.; 3 two-year-old £17 17s.; 2 yearling heifers, £9 3s. 9d.; 3 heifer calves, £6 6s.; and 2 bull calves, £11 0s. 6d. Better prices were recorded at Kippendavie: 10 cows made £21 4s. 2d.; 8 two-year-old heifers, £26 10s. 3d.; 3 yearling heifers, £12 12s.; 2 bulls, £25 4s.; 9 bull calves, £10 7s. 8d. The Earl of Airlie's sale took place a week later, towards the last days of the month. The averages at this meeting were: 19 cows, £26 5s.; 5 two-year-old heifers, £20 16s. 5d.; 6 yearling heifers, £19 12s.; 7 heifer calves, £14 17s.; 9 bull calves, £13 10s. 8d.; and 2 bulls, one of them the famous Rover of Powrie, £33 12s. The best and most uniform prices were realized at Mr. Clement Stephenson's sale at Newcastle. The highest price was 95 gs., yet the average was only excelled at Ballindalloch, where, as we have seen, there were several abnormally high figures. The averages at the Balliot College farm sale were: 11 cows, £14 5s. 10d.; 7 two-year-old heifers, £11 5s.; 9 yearling heifers, £14 5s. 4d.; 5 heifer calves, £33 12s.; 2 yearling bulls, £65 12s. 6d.; and 6 bull calves, £23 16s. The highest price was £90 15s., paid by Mr. Sykes for the yearling bull Gentleman. The following table published in the Scottish Farmer of 30th September shows the final results of the leading Aberdeen-Angus sales of 1893:

Ballindalloch	10 head	£56 0s. 3d.
Balliot College Farm	10 "	40 12 8
Dalmore	10 "	39 4 8
Guisachan	10 "	33 2 0
Blairmore	10 "	23 18 5
Cullen House	10 "	23 17 8
Cortachy	10 "	21 11 0
Inchgower	10 "	21 7 1
Kirkton	10 "	18 8 8
Kippendavie	10 "	14 13 0
Coynachie	10 "	11 10 10
Glen of Rothes	10 "	11 10 10

The results of these sales do not compare well with the figures drawn in the days of the American boom, when, as at Cortachy in 1882, 500 gs. was realized for one cow, but they do not warrant the conclusion that the business of breeding cattle is effete in Scotland. On the contrary, they show that well-bred cattle always sell well, and draw prices to remunerate the breeder.

The Clydesdale sales have read an equally emphatic lesson of the same nature. At Drumlanrig, where the Duke of Beccleuch sold 21 head, an average price of £80 7s. was recorded, and 370 gs. was paid for a Macgregor colt foal; 130 gs. was paid for the brood mare Countess of Drumlanrig, which stood second at the H. & A. S. show at Stirling in 1891. In the same week Sir James Duke, Bart., sold 15 head, which realized an average price of £55 13s. Colonel Stirling, of Kippendavie, had a good sale, and drew £18 2s. for 26 head. Professor McCall sold 16 head, and drew £46 15s. 10d. a piece for them. At Kippendavie a filly foal by Flashwood was sold for 180 gs., or £189, a price which is certainly remunerative, and will pay all concerned to great advantage.

Shows of young Clydesdales have recently been held at Thornhill, in Dumfriesshire, Girvan, in Ayrshire, and Newton Stewart, in Galloway.

Foals have been the leading article at all of these events, and the stock of some of our younger horses have been showing up well. Prince Alexander, Mains of Airlies and Goldfinder have been breeding grand foals. A filly foal by the first named has been sold for £150, and a colt by the second has changed hands at £100. These prices are remunerative. Mains of Airlies is breeding stock which is drawing high prices—£65 and more have been paid for some of his progeny, and Clydesdale breeders have about as little cause of complaint as any section of Scottish farmers.

The Shorthorn sales are not yet completed, but as soon as they are a summary of what has been done at them will be given. SCOTLAND YET.

Chatty Stock Letter from the States.

Farmers and feeders appear to be in a great hurry to market their live stock, and they are getting good prices, notwithstanding the forced runs they are making. The fact is that live stock, except sheep, bring better prices than anything else the farmer has, and as money has not been easy to get on grains or from the banks on any kind of security, the marketing of live stock has been heavy.

The fat stock, poultry, and light horse show at the World's Fair was quietly inaugurated, and there was so much else going on that it was overlooked by many people; still, there was a good attendance of visitors, and the display of stock, except in the fat stock division, was good. The latter was good as far as it went, but was not large. It was too early in the year for the right kind of a show, and many of the best feeders doubtless held off for the Christmas show, to be held in the new stock pavilion at Dexter Park, Chicago.

Among the Shorthorn exhibitors, Mr. E. Jones, of Williamsville, Ill., was most successful, but Mr. A. A. Armstrong, of Fergus, Ontario, was in the honorable mention and prize-taking list in the classes under 3, 2 and 1 years respectively.

In the Hereford classes, W. S. Vanetta, of Fowler, Indiana, took the choice premiums. In the Aberdeen-Angus class, W. S. Niles, of Wyoming, Iowa, was the most successful exhibitor.

Among the Devon exhibitors, John Hudson, of Moweaqua, Ill., had things all his own way, and Hugh Paul, of Dundee, Minn., had no competition in the Galloway class. The best animal in the entire show was a three-year-old Shorthorn steer owned by Mr. E. Jones.

The largest number of cattle ever received at Chicago in one week was 95,524 head, for the week ended Sept. 19th, 1891. This record would have been broken the past month but for the delay of traffic by passenger trains. The closing week of the exposition caused such a rush of travel that live stock trains were considerably delayed.

Montana cattlemen have been delayed in marketing their range cattle, and have been hoping for a continuance of fair weather.

The "liquidation" of sheep raisers continues. They sent in 82,906 head to Chicago in one week lately—the largest number on record by about 14,000 head. Really good sheep and lambs, however, were not very plenty.

Since the Exposition has been in progress Chicago has been largely in the hands of country visitors. The people from the rural districts have attended more generally than have the dwellers in cities. The fine exhibits made by Canada in all departments have been much admired.

There were 191,000 cattle received during the week ended Oct. 21st at Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha and St. Louis combined. Chicago received over 85,000, and of course a good many of the cattle at the latter point, late in the week, had been forwarded from the other three points.

The first ten months of the present year, as compared with the previous year, showed the following changes in receipt of live stock at Chicago: Cattle; a decrease of 320,000 head; hogs, a decrease of 1,500,000; and sheep, an increase of 680,000 head.

The condition of the horse market is unsatisfactory to sellers. Winter forces many plugs on the market, and the rapid substitution of electric and cable cars for horse power tends to steadily lessen the demand for common horses.

FIRST PRIZE ESSAY.

Timely Topics in Feeding.

BY JAS. SHARP.

To many the coming winter will be a very trying one. What with a short crop of straw, grain turning out but fairly well, roots below the yield of other years, pasture gone for months, making fall feeding a necessity—and that feeding has been done, perhaps, with stuff stored for the winter—presents a problem not easily solved: how to do the winter feeding to the best advantage.

Now, though we have many far-seeing, careful farmers, the vast majority cannot be classed as such. In harvest and early fall months we see by far too much threshing being done. The straw is pitched out in great heaps (for stacks they cannot be called), and often the chaff along with it, to get all the fall rains, spoiling it for feeding and to a certain extent for bedding also. Such a practice is wasteful in the extreme, and right here is where many of our farmers should begin so economize. I consider good, clean wheat and oat chaff but little inferior to hay for feeding in the early winter, and, in fact, all through the winter every pound of it should be kept inside and fed; all the straw, if possible, should be housed also, instead of being tramped down by a herd of half-frozen, hide-bound cattle.

I would like to mention another very common and serious mistake many of our farmers still adhere to: that of allowing the cattle and other stock to be in the field day and night through the late fall and early winter months, with nothing to eat save what they can pick up on the pasture fields or around the straw stack. When the weather is cold and the pasture bare, stock should be housed at night, and fed a little night and morning. But they will say, "Our way saves feed and a great deal of extra work," forgetting, or careless that the flesh put on in the summer months is being rapidly lost, when a little judicious housing and feeding at this time is true economy. And on through the whole winter, we see too much of this turning out the cattle in the morning and leaving them standing out till night, regardless of the weather, all because, as some say, it "makes them hardy!" that "they eat a lot of rough feed, and the stables don't need cleaning out so often"—all very fine excuses for a lazy man. I would not care for cattle made "hardy" in that way; they are apt to be hard, tough specimens to the end. They no doubt eat a lot of rough feed—they must to keep up the heat of their bodies—but see how much less would be needed if kept in warm quarters; and the manure made in the stables is far better, and that of itself is an important factor in farming. I do not mean to say that stock should not be out in the winter months. It is good for them that they should; for water and exercise, more especially the young and breeding animals, but when they cease to play around and feel cold, put them in the stable.

It is very important after the stock is housed for the winter, that they be kept clean—not merely their stalls cleaned out and bedded regularly, but the cattle should be looked carefully after, that parasites do not trouble them; if such do get a hold, it takes some time and work to root them out. I have found sheep dip of great value in cleaning stock. We apply it with a sponge or cloth two or three times at short intervals. It takes some time to keep cattle clean and well curried, but they will do very much better on a given quantity of feed than those not so attended to. My excuse, if one is needed for taking up so much time with the housing and cleaning of the cattle, is, that I consider those things second only to a correct system of feeding, and if properly and systematically done, will be found of great value.

It is important that cattle should be fed at the same time, and if possible by the same person. They cannot do well if fed at all hours of the day; rest and quiet are just as essential as food for successful feeding, and any one not gentle and kind with the stock has no business in a cattle stable.

Many of our best feeders put the great bulk of their straw (that which is to be fed), and part of their hay, through the cutting box before being fed; others again just enough to feed with the meal when the chaff is used up. I would advise those who are short of rough fodder to cut by all means; any kind of straw can be made tasty and more palatable to the stock by cutting and mixing with pulped roots. Though oat straw, of course, is best, other kinds can be used to advantage. The mixing should be done twenty-four hours before being fed, to allow the straw to absorb the juice of the roots. In this way the cattle will eat the whole willingly, but if fed separate, the straw would be rooted over and over and a large part wasted. The mixing of feed for a herd of cattle requires a place for the purpose, and many may not have such for so large a quantity that would be needed at once. Still, it will do very well to prepare the morning meal after the feeding is done at night, and so on in advance. After some time, part of the root-house could be used for the purpose. I would use a little water when mixing; it will help to soften the straw, and the stock will relish it the better. Some add the meal ration at this time also. I prefer to mix the meal when feeding, one can tell so much better what is being given; and in feeding for beef, one animal may not stand what others would, nor would a meal ration suitable for beefing cattle be at all the thing for young and growing stock.