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this scourge, and its re-introduction has been traced beyond doubt, to the introduction of one animal—a bull—from Liverpool, and the disease is now rampant from one end of the Island to another. Some thirteen districts, governed by the local authorities in England, have now decided that no Irish cattle shall enter their localities alive. In Scotland they are still more severe, and will not allow any Irish cattle to stand in the Glasgow markets. If this continues a dead meat trade will spring up between England and Ireland; and the only rivals the Canadian importers will have if Canadian cattle keep clear of disease, in the interior markets here, will be the English breeders.

An important shipment of black polled cattle takes place at the end of this week; some 24 of the best to be obtained are to be shipped by Mr. George Wilken, of Waterside-of-Forbes to the order of the Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture; but probably the most important shipment ever made to Canada is that now being made by Mr. Hiram Walker of Windsor Ont. Mr. Walker sends 2,000 to 3,000 head of cattle every year to the English market, and, having experienced great difficulty in obtaining suitable stores he is now taking out 30 polled Aberdeen bulls, with the intention of giving their services free to farmers in the Windsor district, requiring only in return the refusal of the bull calves, the females to be allowed to remain in the district. This is a most valuable step, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Walker's example in this respect will be followed by other extensive traders, who will thus grant a great boon to the smaller farmers, whilst they consolidate and improve their own trade.

Agricultural Affairs in Scotland.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Scotch farmers are meantime looking forward anxiously to the coming of harvest, which this year will be fully two weeks later than usual. There is a good promise of cereal crops, especially of oats, after lea and barley; but what is here termed the "clean land crop"—that is, the crop grown after turnips or potatoes, is light. Reaping will not be general in the north of Scotland until the second week of September, and in the southern counties about a week earlier. A late harvest is seldom a profitable one in the north, because the crop in the cold and backward districts is often spoiled by frost and snow before it can be secured. Never was there a more abundant appearance of potatoes, of which a magnificent crop is expected, and, as yet, they appear to be quite free from disease. The greatest deficiency this year in the crops is among turnips, which, taking the average of the country, will give a very poor yield, in many instances not more than a third of an ordinary crop. This is the most expensive crop raised in Scotland, and the loss to the farmers therefore will be very much felt, more especially in such districts as Aberdeenshire, where it is used largely in preparing cattle for the fat stock markets. Pasture has been abundant of late, wet weather favoring its growth, and, as a consequence, cattle will be stalled in good order next month. Hay, which is fully a third below average, has been greatly spoiled by heavy rains, and the crop will be sadly deficient in color, quality and quantity.

Our great national show of stock, held under the auspices of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, took place last month at Inverness, and although concomitant circumstances were not favorable—restrictions on account of foot and mouth disease in the south, bad weather and an out-of-the-way locality—the exhibition was fairly successful, not only in regard to the quantity, but the quality of the stock. The total number of entries was 1,037. The show was weakest in Clydesdale horses, which are not yet reared so extensively in the north as in the south of Scotland, but they are gradually gaining a hold even in the far north, as farmers are now finding it profitable to breed this class of "cattle," for which there is a good demand from America and the large cities in our own country. The display of Shorthorns, though confined chiefly to the northern counties, was worthy of the occasion, the total entry being 72, as compared with the same show at Glasgow last year. Bulls, however, with the exception of

a few of the winners, were scarcely an average lot. The prize for the best Shorthorn in the yard was won by a Morayshire breeder, Mr. James Bruce, Broraside, for a splendid one-year-old roan named Gold Finder, bred by Mr. Handley, Greenhead, England, after a noted bull named Sir Arthur Ingram. Gold Finder, though rather open in the side, is an animal of immense size and substance, weighing 14 cwt., while he is straight, well-fleshed and has a nice coat of hair. Had he been entered for the Royal English Show at York, he would have had no difficulty in beating any of the exhibits which appeared in his class, for none of them, in my opinion, could be compared to the bull from Morayshire. Polled Aberdeen or Angus cattle, of which there were 93 entries, as against 68 at Glasgow last year, was the best feature of the exhibition, the classes being large, the merit well sustained, while several of the winners were considered as fine specimens of this popular breed as have been shown for several years. Perhaps the most notable animal of the Polled breed in the yard was a three-year-old bull named Black Knight, out of a "Pride" cow, and the property of Mr. Farquharson, of Houghton, Aberdeenshire, which has not been beaten this year. His symmetry and shape are perfect, and his style, fine bone and evenness of flesh, are those of a real typical "poll." In a very superior class of yearling bulls, Liad (the property of Mr. Argo Cairdscot) took leading honors, as he did also at Aberdeen, and his sweetness of flesh, nice covering above, well entitled him to his place. A very massive five-year old "Pride" cow, with beautiful cover of flesh and great fore-end, for which, with a calf, her owner (Lord Tweedmouth) refused an offer of 1,000 guineas, led in a good class of cows. Some judges thought the second best representative of the Polled breed was a two-year-old heifer with fine, arching, deep rib, great substance and wealth of flesh, and a remarkable development for her age—named Waterside Matilda II, which was exhibited by Mr. Wilken, Waterside-of-Forbes. She was got by a "Pride" bull, Knight of the Shire, and she occupied the front place in her class here, as she also did at Aberdeen. Ayrshire and Galloway cattle were not largely represented, there being only 28 of the former and 24 of the latter; but there was a fine turn out of Highland cattle, the total entry being 85 as against 67 at Glasgow in 1882. In the classes for Clydesdale horses there was a decrease of 100 entries, and the quality, with the exception of about 30, was much on an average of what one sees at Glasgow and Edinburgh when this show falls to be held at these places. The decisions of the judges of horses were much criticised, and one exhibitor was so much displeased with the unfair treatment he thought he received that he withdrew all his horses from the show yard before the exhibition closed, paying a penalty to the society of £2 for each horse for doing so.

It may interest some of your breeders to learn that foot and mouth disease has been completely stamped out in the northern counties of Scotland—Kincardineshire and Aberdeenshire, Banff, Nairn, Inverness, and all the counties to the north of Inverness being free.

Aberdeen, Aug. 22nd, 1883.

A Chatty Letter from the States.

[FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.]

Fairs and agricultural displays of all kinds are in active operation throughout the country. There are some who are of the opinion that fairs as generally conducted are of little real worth to the agricultural community which gives the solid support; that more attention is paid to horse-jockeys, pool selling and various catch-penny and advertising schemes, than to the forwarding of the material interests of the agriculturists.

It is a lamentable fact that the real object of fairs, the promotion of farm and stock interests, the bettering of breeds and methods, the exhibition of improved implements, and the elevation of standards of excellence all along the agricultural line—it is painfully true that the real object is so often set aside, and made secondary to the interests of the large class of professional gamblers and dead-beats who try to make their living with their coats on.

The tendency of fairs is too much to fast horse

racing; we need fast trotters, but far more does the general country stand in need of fast walkers. How many horses are to be found that can walk as fast as they ought? Not many. That is something too tame for encouragement by the gamblers; it lacks excitement and is not encouraged by the betting fraternity. It is something, however, which ought to be attended to by the managers of fair associations. Trotting and walking bear about the same relation that pretty parlor accomplishments bear to thorough knowledge of house-keeping; the former are highly desirable as accomplishments, and for use on occasions, but the latter is called into play every day.

Our girls must have the pretty parlor accomplishments, and our horses must be able to hold their own to the buggy or under saddle, but the girls must first become proficient in the knowledge of household economy, and the horses must be at their best before the plow or load of grain.

The one-judge system at fairs and fat stock shows is apparently gaining in favor in some sections; it is argued that one thoroughly competent judge, one of some reputation as a judge, and one perhaps who will require a big salary for services, will be more generally satisfactory than a larger number. At a poultry exhibition last winter an expert judge was paid the sum of \$20 per day and expenses to award the premiums. It seems reasonable to suppose that it is easier to get one thoroughly competent judge than five or three, or a larger number, and while some object to one man having so much responsibility, it is an indisputable fact that when any number of judges is passing upon an article or pen of stock, the decision of the whole often depends upon a single one.

But after all, a judge to please everybody would have to be one who had blue ribbons enough to bestow upon every entry.

In Texas a very severe drouth has been experienced this summer in the southern and western portions of that State, and the losses to stockmen in consequence have been very great. Many sheep men have become discouraged, and before the recent heavy rains which gave the range its wonted color of green, and refreshed the dried up streams, there were many who either sold out at a sacrifice, or moved their flocks to pastures new. The one great want on the plains is that of water. This, too, is a want, when it is wanting, that is the hardest of all to supply. However, the railroad companies are able by the sinking of artesian wells to have water about wherever they want it, and it is thought that in time, the "Staked Plains" in Texas, which are as dry as Sahara in this kind of a summer, can eventually be reclaimed by the introduction of these wells. At present, while there is such a vast amount of unoccupied territory, stockmen do not seem inclined to go to the heavy expense of supplying water in that way.

It is an old Spanish proverb that "short grass makes fat cattle." The truth of this old saying has been very clearly demonstrated in the west. This year, particularly on the far western plains, the rain fall has been heavy and the growth of grass about the heaviest on record. In fact it has been so rank that there are fears that the hay will not have time to properly cure for winter feed, and yet the cattle are fully two months later than usual in getting to market, and are generally lacking in solid fatness, though as a rule they have fattened in a way that does not last till they have travelled a thousand miles or more to market. They are soft and "shrinky."

A vast amount of hay is being cut on the plains and stacked for winter use, and a great many of the ranchmen have become so discouraged with the method of marketing grass beeves, which compels them to crowd their cattle to market in great numbers in the fall of the year, and gives buyers such great advantages, that many have provided for hay, corn and distillery slop feeding. One firm of Wyoming cattle raisers has bought a tract