

STOCK.

A Retrospect.

[By Richard Gibson, before the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association annual meeting in Toronto, February 3, 1897.]

"Watchman, tell us of the night?" "Cloudy overhead but bright and clear in the East, and all's well."

By this quaint illustration from olden days custom may we not aptly describe the present condition of the Shorthorn interest. It is without doubt cloudy, "but all's well," and I think if we take a retrospect of the last year's operations there may be lessons learned which may not only prove interesting and instructive, but also profitable.

In the first place, it is "bright and clear in the East." If we will consider the situation in England, we must confess the outlook is decidedly bright. Prices have been fully maintained, two notable sales have taken place, at each of which higher prices were realized than for some time; while the high-water mark for years past has again been reached, that of one thousand guineas or five thousand dollars. Again has South America been the principal purchaser, not only in numbers, but also quality; the very best that could be purchased have been secured, and price apparently was not thought of so long as they were enabled to get the best. In connection with this trade there are some facts to which I wish to direct your thoughts. The first is the continued demand for bulls. Last year, in drawing your attention to the fact, I asked: "Can nothing be done to get a slice of this trade?" Surely our climate, the crops, and amount of sunshine must more nearly assimilate with that of Argentine than does that of England, upon whose domain the poet informs us the sun never sets, yet for weeks and weeks together she fails to rise, at least to the naked eye. It may be urged, you have not the stock. My reply is that there are no Shorthorns worth buying in England or Scotland with which we cannot claim kinship for some of ours. Moreover, I make this startling statement, that whereas \$7,500 is the most that has been paid for one animal, as far as I am aware, to come to the North American continent, \$35,000 has been paid by Englishmen for one bred here, and for years England's breeders came here for their bulls, so that argument does not hold good.

It had been anticipated when last I addressed you that the Government of the day contemplated getting closer in touch with the stock breeders by appointing one who knew their wants, and who was, as it might be, one of themselves, with whom to consult, etc. It seemed to me as though one of the duties of such an appointee would be to enquire into the condition of foreign markets and the chance of securing an outlet for our surplus cattle, sheep, and horses. It is a matter with which private enterprise, as far as our breeders are concerned, can scarcely grapple. We have been so heavily handicapped of late that but few can afford to grapple with the question single-handed. The thought arises, would it be advisable to divert a small sum from the surplus of the Association towards assisting to ascertain cost of transportation, facilities of shipping, and best course to be pursued towards getting a footing.

Secondly—That most of these bulls are being bought to get steers, and so successfully have they been used that the steers shipped to English markets compare favorably with ours, so that if we expect to be in the race at all, it behooves our steer breeders to awake to the fact that \$50 bulls cannot compete with \$500 ones as steer getters, and that they must buy better bulls and be prepared to pay the breeder correspondingly higher prices.

Thirdly—If these South American Republics, with their depreciated currency, and with the consequent big premium on gold, can pay such high prices, are we to assume they could pay bigger if their national finances were on a sounder foundation. I am not a silverite, but I am almost persuaded when I see such results, and more than a passing thought is their due. Another phase of the English situation is the interest taken in the dairy Shorthorn, and there is evidence that a boom in that direction is at hand, and so persistent are the believers in the value of the Shorthorn as a dairy animal that there are heard mutterings of a break from the parent society, and the establishment of a new Record even, as the breeders of the Lincolnshire reds have done. The views of Mr. Bates are gradually being more and more impressed upon the breeders of England: "That milk, butter and even cheese were of almost equal importance with beef in the selection of a breed of cattle."

Turning to ourselves, "Cloudy overhead but clear in the East" may pretty accurately describe our situation. Cloudy indeed, but I believe that the god of morn is surely rising high in the East and dispelling those clouds. The first rift I note is the assurance that quarantine is to be removed. No such calamitous blow was ever dealt at the cattle industry than the quarantine and tuberculin combination. It paralyzed the breeder's efforts, destroyed his enterprise, and circumscribed his territory. Fresh blood may now be instilled in our herds, and the race for England's markets with South America is made more equal, and with the establishment of the dead meat trade I see the clouds rising higher and higher, and the golden lining appearing; and with a free field we ask no favors. Though Argentine may have a kinder climate, we can more than offset that by the skill

and perseverance of our breeders. Though the United States may have a luxuriant corn belt, and naturally many advantages, still we have our root crop to counterbalance, and our people are more thorough in their methods and management; and though handicapped in many ways we hesitate not to enter into friendly rivalry with them. And now that the clogs to our industry are likely to be removed, I hope you each may feel as sanguine as I do, and that at our next annual meeting you may echo the watchman of old's cry: "All's well!" "All's well!"

Why Do We Breed Shorthorns?

[Paper read at the annual meeting of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, February 3rd, 1897.]

BY A. W. SMITH, MAPLE LODGE, ONT.

To this question probably almost every breeder would answer "to make money," and no doubt quite correctly, and yet the breeder who is in the business simply to make money is seldom a success as a breeder, and almost an injury to the breed. The most successful breeders have doubtless helped themselves to eminence by having in view the profitability of the type for which they were striving. Bates, with his beautiful, graceful, broad-backed favorites, always giving the owner a handsome profit through the dairy, aside from the great improvement in the beefing qualities of the cattle, the result of their cross upon the ordinary cattle of the country.

The Booths, and those breeding to their type, made fortune, as well as fame, with their grand large, heavy-fleshed cattle, selling profitably then, because of their massiveness and readiness to fatten.

And, again, the Scottish breeders, with Cruickshank in the lead, after years of patient perseverance won abundant reward for producing still another and different type, one which, following those already mentioned and filling in a necessary quality to suit the change in demand, built up a smaller class of cattle, maturing quickly and proving profitable almost whenever used judiciously.

And the breeders of to-day, who, casting aside all false prejudice to pedigree, gather the best from the fruit of the labor of all these great benefactors of the breed, and, as a master artist with a few bold strokes of the brush produces a picture which captivates the world, so these breeders produce the type of beast which will bring a full, ripe carcass of beef of good size, with a massive appearance, at an age unthought of in the earlier days of the breed, possessing milking qualities to recommend them as the cattle for the general farmer, and stamped with that grace and carriage necessary in the successful show animal of to-day. These breeders attain to an ideal type that is higher than that of the past and leaves more profit than is possible to the man who is breeding simply for the money there is in it.

All these breeders have worked and thought and waited for the realization of a desire to produce a type approaching more or less closely to an ideal animal produced first in their own imagination, and willing to accept such profit, though sometimes small, which is sure to follow. They are always a benefit to the breed.

On the other hand, then, is the speculating capitalist, who may invest largely in Shorthorns (a benefit to some individual breeders very often, I will admit), as has been done so frequently in the past, and then breed simply on paper or from pedigree, and whose highest ambition as to improvement may be to "corner" some family or strain of blood, and by systematic booming force them up in price. Then, having made them fashionable, if he be adroit and does not foolishly imagine himself a breeder in the best sense, he will sell out, making some money, but seventy-five per cent. of the purchasers will lose. The result: injury, and sometimes almost disaster to the breed.

A more numerous class of breeders at the present time, as well as the past, and whose injury to the breed is now far-reaching, is composed of those men who, being quick to follow in the wake of other men who to them seem to be making money, they perhaps see bull calves selling for \$100 or over, and count a clear profit of \$75 or \$80 over the steers they have been raising, purchase a cow or two, and then, without any idea of the animal they wish to breed, simply have the cows raise calves. The sire may be very inferior, of a type likely to be avoided altogether by the skillful breeder, yet they expect their calves to sell for \$100, and of course they are disappointed; they forget that they have not purchased the skill and experience of a successful breeder, that they have not, as he very often has done, patiently for years sold his surplus for one-half the price he now gets, yet determinedly breeding for the improved type he has in view.

This class of breeders become disgusted with the breed, and not because of any fault of that breed, but because of error in their own judgment, and, being dissatisfied with themselves, as quickly as possible dispose of what they consider then a losing property; or, worse, allow them to degenerate through continued ill-mating and carelessness, and then denounce the result or effect as the cause of that same result, and, through citing their disappointment, cause further injury to the breed by discouraging men who would be a benefit to the breed, and a credit to the ranks of the breeders, from investing as they would because of their natural love for a good and comely beast that they can raise with reasonable promise of profit and shape to their own taste, always being a source of profit as well to the established breeder.

Our Scottish Letter.

The chief event in the agricultural world here since I last wrote was the Scottish Stallion Show at Glasgow on Friday. Many good horses were exhibited; we have seen better, and we have also seen worse. Horses are a good deal bigger than they were; judges have accepted the inevitable, and sacrificed a little beauty for the sake of greater substance and strength. We do not see that there has been any sacrifice of quality. The weather this year was exceedingly disagreeable. It was dry above, but miserably damp below. In point of number the show was deficient as compared with last year. The aged horses which competed for the Glasgow district premium were not a lot of startling merit; we have seen better at a Glasgow spring show, and at the same time let it be granted we have seen worse. The short leet selected by the judges (Messrs. John Anderson, Middle Quarter, Shettleston; Alex. Harvie, Nitshill, and William Rodger, of Crook) were Mr. Riddell's two black horses, Lora Wolsey 9577, and Moneycorn; Mr. Marshall's extremely handsome horse, Hiawatha 10067; Mr. William Clark's thick, compact, short-legged horse, Royal Exchange 10000, son of Sir Everard 5353, which won the premium two years ago; Mr. A. Jackson's very big and heavy, but perhaps rather plain-looking horse, Prince of Craighend 10104, which stood well up last year, and Mr. Alex. McRobbie's very heavy, massive horse, Prince Stephen 9363, which improves with age. The judges took a terribly long time to decide which of these was the best horse, and finally, we hope, pleased themselves by awarding the premium for the third time to Mr. Riddell's Moneycorn. This horse's sire, Prince of Albion, won the premium as a three-year-old in 1886, and was a horse of great substance and weight; got by Prince of Wales 573, out of one of the mares which the late Mr. Drew brought from England. Moneycorn wears his ten years well, and was always very defiant of the causeway; in fact, that is decidedly his best point.

The open class was judged by Messrs. Robert Stevenson, Macharloch, Campbeltown, and David A. Hood, Balgreddan, Kirkcudbright, and their short leet consisted of 9 or 10 very grand horses, exhibiting freshness, quality, substance, and style. They were all horses which had previously distinguished themselves in the show-yards. One was Mr. David Mitchell's big dark brown horse, Prince of Millfield 9650, which as a three-year-old was regarded as one of the best horses of his age exhibited in Glasgow. He was got by Orlando 8082, decidedly the bonniest three-year-old horse shown in Glasgow during the present generation, and his dam was the celebrated champion mare, Sunray, one of the sweetest and most evenly proportioned mares exhibited during the past twenty years. Another short leet horse was Mr. R. O. Macfarlane's Goldmine 9540—a thick, typical Clydesdale, of good quality, with clean bones and sound feet. As a yearling he was well nigh invincible, and won the cup at Glasgow, and he promises to make an excellent breeding horse. He has been much sought after for district societies, and this year is the premium horse for Olackmanna. First prize was awarded to Mr. Peter Crawford for the fine horse, Prince of Carruchan 8151, whose career from first to last has been notable enough. He was bred by Mr. John Macraig, Challoch, Leswalt, and was first seen in public at the H. & A. S. Show at Dundee in 1890, where he was first. He enjoys the unique distinction of never having worn a second prize ticket in his life. He was first at the H. & A. S. in 1890, 1891 and 1893, and he was first at Glasgow Spring Show in 1892 and 1897. To crown all, on this occasion he carried off the Cawdor Challenge Cup for the second time, and so won it outright for his popular owner, Mr. Peter Crawford. Second prize was awarded to Mr. David Riddell for his fresh young horse, Good Gift, which in the previous year stood second as a three-year-old in the same yard. This is one of the produce of Gallant Prince, and his dam, Lothian Queen, was a very fine prize mare. He is, to our thinking, the sweetest kind of horse Gallant Prince has yet produced. He has excellent feet and legs, and is very thick and wide. Mr. Marshall's Hiawatha was third, and in this had ample revenge for his position in the previous class, as he now beat far heavier competitors than those placed in front of him before. His breeder was Mr. Wm. Hunter, Garthland Mains, and his sire was Prince Robert, 7135, which once won in this same class. Mr. Kilpatrick's celebrated old horse, Prince of Kyle 7155, was a strong fourth. He once won the Cawdor Cup, and has greatly improved in recent years, having thickened out wonderfully and gathered substance. Mr. McRobbie's Prince Stephen, which followed, is a fine useful horse; and the sixth, Mr. Pilkington's County Member 10051, has wonderful sweetness and quality. Mr. Jackson's Prince of Craighend 10104 was seventh. It is worth noticing that the dams of the fourth, fifth, and seventh were Darnley mares.

Three-year-olds were quite a superior class of horses, and as the two sets of judges practically corroborated one another, we need only mention that Messrs. David Buchanan, Robert Renwick, and John Whyte selected Mr. James Kilpatrick's greatly improved young horse, Cawdor Cup 10045, for the Glasgow district premium. The other two judges, Messrs. James Lockhart and William Kerr, also selected him for first place in the open class, and there was no doubt at all about his title to the place. Last year this great colt appeared at this same show a lean, unfed two-year-old, with quite