

Gossip.

Record Prices for British Stock.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The close of October in England saw some wonderful prices paid for live stock of all kinds. At the Edgcote Shorthorn Sale a new "record" average was made. Top price was paid for the deep red bull, Edgcote Judge, a son of Ascott Clipper, out of Mysic Belle, which was by Bletchley King, the sire of Silver Mint. The agent of the Holme Pierrepont Herd, owned by Lord Manvers got him for 850 guineas. The ten highest priced bulls averaged £490, and eight of the cows £220. Nine bull calves by Earl of Kingston averaged £294, and five by Ascott Clipper £271. Home breeders bid very patriotically, so to speak, for calves by the premier stock bulls. Out of the twenty-three head sold, sixteen were bought by British breeders, who time and again outpaced the exporters. The average of £196 is the highest obtained in the United Kingdom (excepting, of course, the Duthie dispersals) since the Oliver event in 1884, when the Bates' Duchesses were sold.

At Darlington George Harrison the Gainford Hall expert was paid 1,100 guineas for Ringleader, the best bull calf he has ever bred at Gainsford, and he has bred a few.

The splendid average of £150 13s. 4d. was made for forty-nine very young Shorthorns sold at W. M. Cazalet's sale. Top price was 760 guineas given for a bull calf Radium, from the Goldie tribe.

A record sale of shires at Peterborough saw £18,083 16s. 6d., taken, and 170 foals sold at an average of £43 3s. This big sum was collected in two rings in one day.

The West Derby herd of pigs—eighty-eight head—were dispersed by Alfred Mansell for a record average of £15 14s. 3d. The fifty-nine Large Whites sold averaged £16 16s., another record, and so the merry game goes on.

At public auction Scotland has sold this year 2,964 head of pedigree Shorthorns and Angus cattle, for a general average of £57 3s. 11d., against that of £40 4s. 8d. in 1915. Thus some £169,481 18s. 6d. has been spent on first-class stock. For 1,558 Shorthorn cattle the general average was £75 15s. 9d., or a rise of £24 per head on the figures of last year. No such average has ever been recorded before, the next best average over a period of more than thirty years being £63 10s. 5d. in 1906. As regards Aberdeen-Angus cattle, which did not of course benefit to anything like the same extent from an export trade, the general average also shows a substantial and highly gratifying rise. Last year the average was £30 2s. 1d., while for the season just closed, that has been increased to £35 5s. 10d., for 1,406 head.

Nothing sensational, but a year of good, steady, substantial progress has marked the interests of Aberdeen-Angus cattle. The outlook for the breed has never been better, the two most promising fields being South Africa and New Zealand though also in the Argentine real progress is being made. In South Africa the prospects are of the most encouraging description. During the year exports have been on a satisfactory scale, and have numbered 200. Of this number South Africa took fully one-half, while South America had over seventy, and smaller consignments went to New Zealand, Canada, Australia, the United States, Japan, Tasmania, Norway, and Sweden.

The best Angus sale of the year was at Perth, when 297 bulls made an average of £45. 5s. Top price was £462, given by Mr. Kerr, Harviestoun for a Jilt bull, Ballindalloch, this being the second highest price ever paid at these sales for a bull of the breed. The record of £504 is still held by Lord Rosebery's Ebbero, also from the Ballindalloch herd.

England, and London particularly, is increasing its cry for more milk, and farmers are not slow to avail themselves of the chance to produce and sell milk rather than making butter or cheese with it. Our cows and heifers in England and Wales have increased from 1,952,648 on the average of the five-year period 1881-85 to 2,484,220 in 1914, or by no fewer than 531,572 head, the increase being greater than for "other", or more especially meat-producing, cattle. London now consumes 108,000,000 gallons of milk annually and by railroad she

received some 97,714,346 gallons in 1914, the rest coming in by road. We are paying sixpence a quart for milk in London to-day. There is an increased number of young heifers noted in the British official live stock statistics and that is quite a good sign. ALBION.

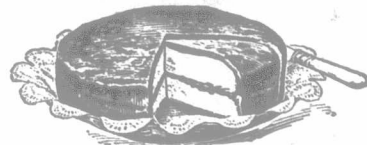
Volume 27, American Shropshire Sheep Records.

Through the courtesy of Julia M. Wade, Secretary of the American Shropshire Registry Association, a copy of volume 27 of the records has been received at this office. It contains the pedigrees of rams and ewes numbering from 364,139 to 379,324. In the pedigrees are given the number, name and ear mark of the animal, the date lambled, name of sire and dam, and name of breeder and owner. Such information is of value to every Shropshire breeder. Address communication to Secretary of the American Shropshire Record, Lafayette, Ind.

The Winter Fair at Guelph.

The date of the Guelph Winter Fair is drawing near and the entries for the coming show are very satisfactory, there being in the neighborhood of 300 horses, 300 cattle, 75 cows in the dairy test, 490 sheep, 500 swine, and 375 entries in seeds. The sheep and seed entries are records for the show. About 5,000 birds are entered, which, with the entries of pens and dressed poultry, will make the poultry showing about equal to the record entry of 1915. In addition to the regular exhibits, there will be a number of very valuable demonstrations in types of market animals, both alive and dressed, with an expert in attendance to explain the various points of difference and the desirable qualities in our meat animals. On Wednesday of the week of the Fair a sale of seeds, both of the Field Crop Competition and open classes, will be held. This will give anyone desiring clean, pure seed an opportunity of securing it for the spring seeding. On both Wednesday and Thursday the dressed carcasses will be on display in the carcass room. They will be arranged in order of merit, so that visitors will have an opportunity of making a careful study of them. The sale of dressed carcasses will be on Thursday, the last day of the Fair. The Fair is held in Guelph, December 1 to 8. Judging of Shires, Shorthorns and sheep takes place on Monday, Dec. 4; dairy bulls, Aberdeen-Angus, Percherons and swine on Tuesday, the 5th; Herefords, Clydesdales, heavy drafts, on Wednesday, the 6th; grade steers, champion beef cattle and Clydesdales, on Thursday, the 7th. There will be much of an educational value to all interested in the different phases of agriculture. You cannot afford to miss attending this big Winter Fair, where the best products of field and stable are to be seen.

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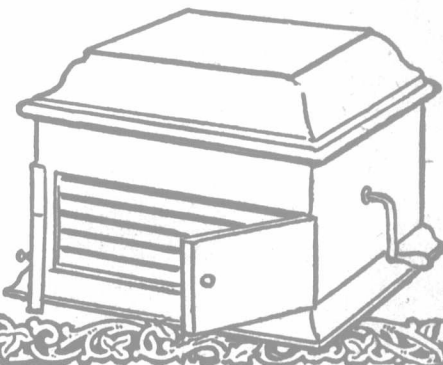


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