

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

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The Sheep and Swine Breeders' Meeting.

As intimated in the April 1st ADVOCATE, a joint meeting of the members of the Dominion Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations will be held in the City Hall, London, beginning at one p.m., Thursday, May 23, which will enable those attending to avail themselves of single railroad fares. An outline of the subjects to be taken up appeared in our last issue. We understand that the members of the joint committees to compose the Provincial Fat Stock Club will meet in Guelph the following day.

"Now, young man, if you have been buying hay for your stock, decide never to be caught so again. It is much better to have a few tons for sale in the spring, when hay is high, than to buy. Did you ever hear of any one growing poor by raising an extra quantity of fodder?"—Hollister Sage.

STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

Some weeks have elapsed since we last found leisure to write for the ADVOCATE, and in the interval a great variety of important events have taken place. Horse shows and sales, cattle sales, discussions on numerous phases of farm thought, the lambing season—not to mention the thinning of the agricultural ranks by death—all these, and many more items, would occupy attention were this designed as an exhaustive review of the situation. Such, however, would not be of much interest to readers in Canada, and the work on hand will be confined to more narrow limits.

Clydesdale movements naturally take precedence in point of time. The Scottish Stallion Show, at Glasgow, was chiefly noteworthy on account of the success of the progeny of Mr. W. Taylor's champion horse, Sir Everard 5353. The two premiums for the Glasgow district were won by his sons, Sir Morell Mackenzie 9416 and Royal Exchange 10000, and this is quite an unprecedented event. Sir Everard himself was bred by Mrs. Lamont, Killellan, Toward, Argyllshire. He was purchased by Mr. Taylor, when about sixteen months old, for £65. When two years old he won numerous prizes, and was greatly fancied by many breeders. In the three following years, 1888, 1889, and 1890, he was awarded the Glasgow district premium at the stallion show, but in the first year Mr. Taylor preferred not to travel his horse in Glasgow, and forfeited the premium and sent him down to the Kenwick district of Kirkcudbright. While there, he became sire of Sir Morell Mackenzie, which was bred by Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Barcheskie, and in Glasgow, in the following year, he became sire of The Summit 9442, winner of the Glasgow premium, and unbeaten as a three-year-old in 1893, and Baron's Pride 9122, the champion of the H. & A.'s Show, at Aberdeen, in 1894. In 1891, Sir Everard travelled in Kintyre, and there became sire of Royal Exchange 10000, whose success was foreshadowed a year ago, when he gained the championship at Maryhill. This record of Sir Everard as a breeding horse is somewhat unique, and the success of his sons as premium stallions is a strong point in his favor.

The first of the great general shows of the season are now over, and while both at Castle Douglas and Kilmarnock not very much that is new has been learned, yet proof has been furnished of the confined merit of the Clydesdale breed of horses. Some splendid geldings are being exhibited, and a good market is opening up for this class of animals. Clydesdale breeders who adhere to the lines now marked out are likely soon to reap a benefit which will be more enduring than that of the foreign demand, valuable as that has been. At Castle Douglas the produce of old "Macgregor" and his descendants was much in evidence. Galloway is the Macgregor territory, if anywhere, and the first brood mare there, Mina of Earnock, is a daughter of the old horse, and a right valuable one at that. The Champion mare at the show was Mr. Thomas Smith's Belle of Fashion, from Blacon Point, Chester. This mare is a fine animal, but at Kilmarnock she had to give place to the "Flashwood" mare, "Lillie Langtry," owned by Mr. David Mitchell, of Millfield, Polmont. The Champion colt at Castle Douglas was the Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery's Bridegroom 9886, a grand colt by Knight o' Lothian 4489, out of a well-bred mare by Macgregor. At Kilmarnock he too had to give place to another horse, "Knight o' Corval," bred by Mrs. Lamont, and got by Mr. Riddell's Gallant Prince, out of one of the same race of mares as Sir Everard. Two horses of the "Macgregor" tribe are breeding well, in Galloway. These are his sons: The Macmeekan 9690, whose own brother The MacEachran, was first at the H. & A. S. last year, and his grandson, Duke of Rothesay 9191, owned by Mr. James A. Wallace, Claycrop, Kirkinner. The Macmeekan won the group prize for yearlings at Castle Douglas, and Duke of Rothesay was sire of several of the best youngsters exhibited. The champion horse at Kilmarnock was the famous Prince Alexander 8889, owned by Mr. William Renwick, Meadowfield, Corstonphine, and he also won in a special group competition for the best sire shown with five of his progeny. These five were Mr. Wm. Park's Prince of Brunstane 9977, a very thick, typical Clydesdale, which won first prize in the three-year-old class; Princess Alexandra and Kate Park, which were first and second in the same class for fillies; a choice two-year-old filly, owned by Mr. William Dunlop, Dunure Mains, Ayr, which was second in her class, and Mr. John M. Hannah's yearling colt, Captain Alexander, which was second in his class. These were five fine animals, and we doubt whether any other living sire, except, perhaps, Macgregor or Sir Everard, could bring forward their equal. Prince Alexander is a much younger horse than these others, and three out of the five thus exhibited were got by him when two years old. The first prize yearling colt at Kilmarnock was got by Macgregor, as were also the second and third prize yearling fillies, and the first filly in the Derby. Mr. Montgomery's horse had no difficulty in adding one more to his numerous victories at this show for the best group of five yearlings got by any sire. His son, the two-year-old colt Montrave Mac 9658, has lately been sold by Mr. Gilmour, of Montrave, to Mr. Dunlop, Dunure Mains, for £1,000, a very high figure, as prices are at present. The dam of the

colt is the champion mare Montrave Mand, by Prince of Wales 673, out of Moss Rose 6203; so that the breeding of Montrave Mac is something quite unprecedented. The 1,000-gs. yearling of the Montrave sale, Queen of the Roses 12302, owned by Mr. Pilkington, was first in the brood mare class at Kilmarnock, and won the championship as the best female Clydesdale exhibited. She had a filly foal by "Macgregor" last year, and is again heavy with foal to the same sire. The best two-year-old filly at Kilmarnock was owned by Mr. Matthew Marshall, and got by Lord Lothian 5998, a horse which breeds wonderfully well in Cumberland. The first yearling filly both at Castle Douglas and Kilmarnock was bred and owned by Mr. William Hood, Chapelton of Borgue, and was got by Prince Romeo 8144, a successful breeding horse. This is a specially good filly, and she is not likely to be easily beaten this year. Before dismissing Clydesdale topics, reference should be made to the Earnock sale, at which the fine mare, Lady Louise, a daughter of Prince of Wales 673, was sold to Mr. George Alston for 540 gs. Robina, another good mare in the stud, was sold to Mr. Gilmour for 165 gs., and twelve brood mares, made the substantial average of £117 15s. 5d. each.

In the cattle world we have had important sales of Shorthorns and West Highlanders in Cumberland and Oban. The ancient Highland breed continues to make headway in Scotland, and it is a great advantage to many small farmers and others that so many wealthy noblemen fancy them for their parks and demesnes. The sale at Oban was characterized by much buoyancy of tone, and good prices were realized. When we say good prices, we do not, of course, mean the fancy figures paid in the flash days of the Shorthorn boom, but prices which are profitable to the breeder—enable him to pay his rent, and make a living. The Highlander can never become extinct so long as men inhabit the Western wilds of Scotland. No other cattle could live there, and a grand future is before the breed, if only the idea of fancy breeding is not permitted to obliterate all else. Shorthorns have been selling well alike at Birmingham, where the annual bull sale took place in March, and at the Edengrove and Newbie sale, in the beginning of April. These were somewhat notable events in their way. Mr. Graham is one who makes a strong point of dairy properties in his cattle, and the Edengrove Shorthorns have been largely built up from the foundation of those grand cattle which made the Cumberland and Westmoreland fells and dales famous. The character of the Newbie Shorthorns does not call for eulogy to Canadians. It was from the herd of his uncle, Mr. James Beattie, at Newbie, and other two herds in Annandale—those of Mr. Marshall, Howes, and Mr. Sim, Reidkirk,—that the late Simon Beattie secured those grand cattle which laid the foundation of the Bow Park and other herds. We have never seen a better lot of Shorthorns than those sold by Mr. Thornton from Mr. Beattie's Fewbie herd. Eleven cows made the respectable average of £30 15s. 8d., and Mr. Graham's 29 cows and heifers averaged £24 2s. apiece. There was something very pleasing in the character of the choice animals sold by Mr. Beattie. He has bred them for over 50 years, and such cattle never grow stale. At the Lydiates sale, in the West of England, 33 Shorthorn cows and heifers made an average of £31 5s. 6d. apiece, and nine bulls, £34 8s. 5d. Galloways have also had a good turn recently. What Oban is to the West Highlanders, Perth to the Aberdeen-Angus and Scottish Shorthorns, Birmingham to the English Shorthorns, Castle Douglas is to the famous black polled cattle of the Borders. This year's bull sale has been better than some of those which went before it, in several respects, and the good bulls exhibited and sold were very good. The best bull shown was Nonpareil of Castlemilk 6163, whose breeder was Sir Robert Jardine, Bart. He was sold for £35 to Mr. W. Parkin-Moore, of Whitehall, a Cumberland gentleman who is showing himself an enthusiastic patron of the ancient Galloway. We are now in the thick of the summer shows, and it is not very easy to write about much else. When next we write, something will be said about the Ayrshire. SCOTLAND YET.

Is the Trotting Limit Reached?

"I do not believe the trotter or the pacer is at his limit yet by a good deal," said Budd Doble lately. "The two-minute mark may not be reached this year or next, but I expect to see it reached. I cannot say what horse will reach it. I might guess, but conjecture is not valuable. As between the pacers, John R. Gentry and Robert J., if I were to become a partisan, I should stand by the little gelding. Gentry is a well-gaited, game horse, but, although differently, none the less well-gaited, Robert J. seems to have the speed without the effort. As to trotters, Alix is the most probable record-breaker. Nancy Hanks was seven years old when she trotted in 2:04; Alix was six when she trotted in 2:03. Alix is seven this year, and she is in excellent shape so far as I have heard. It does seem to me that she ought not to be at the limit of her speed."

In the British House of Commons, Mr. Gardner, President of the Board of Agriculture, answered in the negative when asked if the Government would be prepared to impose a small import duty on butter and cheese which was assisted by a bounty from the exporting country.