

catch more of the men from Western Manitoba and Eastern Assiniboia, it being pointed out that other associations and societies do this, such as the fraternal organizations and professional associations.

Some Principles of Breeding.

There is an old saying that "Like produces like," the truth of which we have no reason to doubt; yet it is a common practice when mating two animals to select the parents so that each is strong in the points which the other fails in, the idea being that the good points of each will be grafted together in the offspring. Undoubtedly, this plan is sounder in principle and to be preferred to mating two animals which fail in the same respects. Yet, would not the ideal plan be to breed together those which possess the same good points?

When we mate two animals we are combining their characteristics and hereditary tendencies in the new organism. If both parents depart from the standard in the same respects the offspring can hardly be expected to inherit anything but the same failings which are transmitted to it by both parents. If the parents both fail, but in different points, it is extremely unlikely that the offspring will pick out, so to speak, the desirable characteristics in each parent and conjoin them. It is possible that such a thing might happen and result in the production of perfection; but it would so rarely occur that we cannot call it the usual result of this method of mating. Rather should we get progeny with some of the parents' bad points. In other words, if the two halves which go to make the whole are dissimilar, the offspring will inherit its characteristics from one parent or the other; it will seldom conjoin them. If one parent is weak in loin and the other strong, we could hardly expect the hereditary tendencies (the unit cells, or whatever is responsible for the transmission of each characteristic) to be combined in their progeny and mediocrity to be produced; rather should we expect the progeny to inherit either the good loin or the bad one. If, on the other hand, the two halves which go to make the whole are similar, the combination of the similar tendencies will be certain to cause their reproduction.

It amounts to this, that if we want to breed improved stock we must mate together the best specimens procurable, and those which excel in the same good points. The most perfect parents will produce the largest proportion of perfect progeny, and in this fact we find an exemplification of the saying we have already quoted, "Like produces like." In other words, the points which both parents possess in common will be as a rule transmitted to their offspring.

One other aspect of the case may be considered. What if we have not got perfection to start with? The use of a very perfect horse may be ours by the payment of the necessary fee, but our mare possesses little but her pedigree to recommend her. In such a case we must be prepared to exercise patience and build up perfection step by step, improving the offspring of that mare generation by generation. We must first decide what are the most desirable lines in her pedigree; then we must look the mare over to ascertain what characteristics desired in her breed she possesses. The horse to select is one as near perfection as possible, and with, at any rate, the same good points as the mare, so that these points may become fixed in the foal. He must also possess in the three first removes of his pedigree the name of the animal which we find and value in the mare's. A filly foal bred in this way can hardly fail to be an improvement on her mother—a step nearer the goal we are aiming at. She will have her mother's good points intensified, also some of those, we will hope, possessed exclusively by her sire, and she will be inbred to the type we are desiring to reproduce.

In choosing a mate for a filly bred thus, we must seek a sire with all her good points, and with the desirable strain of blood at the back part of his pedigree. In this way we shall gradually build up a valuable strain, and one which will constantly breed true to the characteristics we have so carefully engrafted.

This leads us up to the subject of the influence of the respective parents. It is commonly held that any mare will do for a brood mare, and farmers act up to this belief, by breeding from an old, worn-out, badly-made animal. From what we have previously written, it will be realized that the results cannot be as satisfactory as they would be if the best mares were bred from, though no doubt an improvement may be made on the very undesirable dams. It is questionable whether it is not waste of time to try and raise the standard from the lowest type—that is to say, to advance one step from zero—when one has material at hand to work on which has already advanced or risen several degrees. However it may be, the fact we would wish to emphasize is that the influence of the dam is equal to the influence of the sire. In the long run, the influence of the female side of the family will be precisely as potent as that of the male. This is not generally believed, we know; but the matter has been proved recently by actual experiment, and breeders will do well to bear in mind that it makes no difference in general results, or, even, as a rule, in the results of first crosses, which parent is used as the father and which as the mother—[C. J. Davies, in *Live-stock Journal*].

Our Scottish Letter.

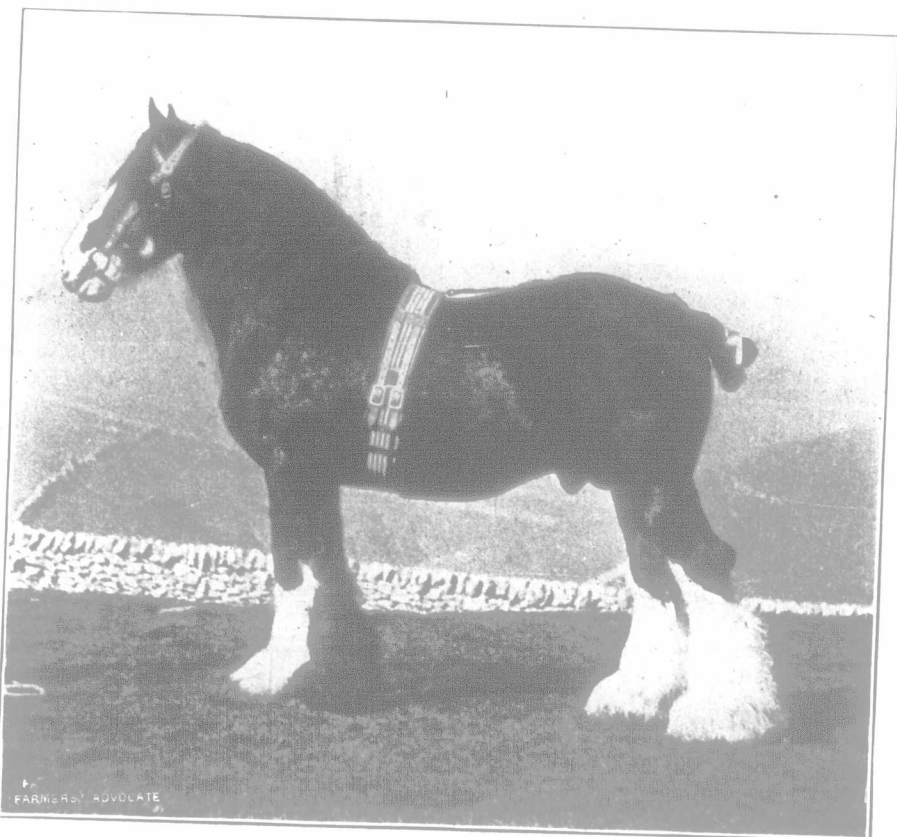
The Highland and Agricultural Society has to-day (22nd July) closed at Perth one of the most successful shows held by it during its long history of more than 100 years. As a matter of fact, this is the 120th anniversary of the society on its present basis. The Fair City, as we call Perth, is the agricultural center of Scotland, and the attendance at this show has in every respect been unique. Among our visitors have been prominent stock-owners from all parts of the world, and not least, the Hon. John Dryden and Mrs. Dryden, who do not need to be introduced to readers of these letters. We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Dryden to Scotland, recognizing in them the true type of Canadians, the centers of a wholesome home life, and their own share of that calm strength which insures future

Castle herd, and the success achieved by him in doing this is a striking demonstration of the truth, that the sire is more than half the herd. These two heifers were, respectively, first and reserve as the best females, both of them being preferred by the judges to the King's red cow, Sylph, which won at the Royal. The yearling heifer class was also led by a Royal exhibit, Madeline, which stood third at the Royal. She was got by that grand old sire, Silver Plate, which did such admirable service at Inverquhomery. His Majesty thus sent three Shorthorns, and won three first prizes.

The King has a good herd of Aberdeen-Angus cattle at his Aberdeenshire farm, of Abergeldie Mains; but although exhibits are often sent from it to the national shows, they have not hitherto succeeded in capturing

the same high honors as come to the Shorthorns, Herefords and Devons from Windsor. This year he showed one or two black polled animals, which secured mention. In the Aberdeen-Angus section, as well as in the Shorthorn section, the best animals came from south of the borders. The champion of the breed, Pundit of Preston 17156, was bred in Bucks, and is owned by Messrs. Charles Perkins and partners, Birtley, Co. Durham. He is a neat, level bull, true to the black polled type, and a week ago was first and breed champion at the Northumberland Show at Alnwick. The Aberdeen champion of last week had to lower his colors to him. This is Mr. George Cran's Teshurun 19257, a Ballindalloch-bred bull, and no duffer. The third and fourth were also bred at Ballindalloch. The Royal champion, Knight of Danesfield 20738, bred and owned by Mr. R. W. Hudson, Danesfield, Marlow, Bucks, was first in the two-year-old class. He is a bull of greater scale than Pundit. The second one in this class is owned and was bred in Ireland. This shows how the breeding of the blacks is extending, and the class of stock that is being bred in England and Ireland. Ballindalloch himself led the yearling class, Mr. Arch. Whyte, Inverquhar, Kirriemuir, coming a very strong second. The champion cow came (of all places, as some might think) from Ayrshire, but you find the black polled beasts everywhere nowadays. This animal is Quines 29954, a rare good sort, which won the championship at the Angus show a year ago. Mr. James Kennedy, of Doonholm, Ayr, who owns this cow, is building up a splendid herd in the West.

An outstanding feature in connection with the Galloways was the success of two full sisters from the herd of Sir Robert Jardine, of Castlemilk, Bart. They are known as Alice III. of Castlemilk 16867, and Alice II. of Castlemilk 16352, and were respectively first and second in the cow in milk class. The first-named is the younger of the two, being three years old. She was champion of the breed, beating all the bulls, as well as all the cows and heifers. The sisters are very like each other, and a pair of females of like quality is not seen every day. Perhaps the most peculiar thing about the Galloway exhibits at the Highland is the relative poverty of the bulls in numbers, as well as quality, when compared with the females. This is probably due to the fact that a Galloway bull is just as well to be kept in hard condition and constantly employed. The reverse feature is seen in the Highlanders, the bulls of which type usually excel the females at the National Show. This year we had a splendid display of Highlanders. Perth is a convenient rallying center, and the fanciers of the breed are much disposed to favor the old town on the Tay. One of the best folds, that of the Duke of Atterly, is in Perthshire, and the celebrated Bocharie fold, which has furnished the nucleus of numerous younger folds, is situated in the west of the country. Not far distant is the Airthrey fold on the confines of Perth and Stirling, but actually in the latter country. The most noted breeding fold at the present time, that of the Earl of Southesk, K. T., is at Kinnaird Castle, near Brechin, in Forfarshire, about forty miles north of Perth. This fold furnished the champion of both this year and last—a great bull, named King Alarie 1712. Reserved to him stood the most beautiful specimen of the bovine species in the show—Mr. D. A. Stewart's first-prize two-year-old heifer, Laochag, from the far-distant Hebrides. She was bred and reared on the island of Eusay in the outer Hebrides. It must have been an animal of her type and character which Thomas Bates took as his model. It is frankly acknowledged that his model was a West Highland heifer. Towards that shape he sought to mould his Shorthorns. The world knows with how much success his aim was reached. Laochag cannot be described. She is just about perfect as an example of true Highland character.



Bay Victor Chief.

Shire stallion in his fifteenth year. One of the greatest English sires of the breed.

stability to the great Dominion. Mr. and Mrs. Dryden have been fortunate in seeing one of the best displays of Scottish live stock gathered together at our great national round-up. The future of British agriculture is bound up with prosperity in the live-stock world. His Majesty exhibited several superb Shorthorns; the supreme honors in this section going to his great bull Ronald (79775), one of the smoothest bulls of the breed I have ever seen. He has had a wonderfully successful show career in Great Britain and Ireland, and winds up by being sold at a phenomenal price to a gentleman from Chili. The style and gaiety of this bull is not less marked than his wonderful fleshiness, depth and scale. He seems to have a certain proportion of old Bates blood in the foundation of his breeding, the superstructure being mainly Scottish or Cruickshank. The other exhibit from the Royal farms at Windsor was the red cow Sylph. She is now rising four years old, and is a daughter of the 800 gs. bull, Royal Duke, which went to the Argentine. She too has had a wonderful career of victory, but is scarcely as smooth an animal as the bull. It was quite good business to bring two such animals from Windsor to Perth, and take all there was to take in prize money, with the supreme champion honor. Mr. Matthew Marshall, Stranraer, had first in the two-year-old class, with that great bull, Roan Conqueror, bred by Messrs. Peterkin, Dunglass, Dingwall, a bull of immense substance and scale, and particularly level in flesh. Mr. Robert Taylor, Pitliverie, Carnoustie, was second in both classes, with March On (97357), and Vice Consul (84970), respectively, both admirable specimens, and bred in the north of Scotland. Yearling bulls of the Shorthorn breed are this season of quite outstanding merit. Mr. Duncan Stewart, Millhills, Crieff, was first with Royal Eclipse, bred by the late Mr. W. S. Marr, at Uppermill, and got by that great sire, Bapton Favorite, out of a Roan Lady cow. The Aberdeen winner of the previous week, Mr. A. T. Gordon's Sterling Coin, from Combescausway, Inch, was second. In some respects he excels the winner, and Irishmen are naturally proud of him, for he was bred near Dundalk, in County Louth.

The female Shorthorns were worth going a long way to see. The champion, Mr. H. S. Leon's Roseleaf, from Bletchley Park, Bucks, is a lovely two-year-old heifer. She was got by that great sire, Silver Mint 79968, and on the dam's side traces to a Scots foundation, in the Gordon Castle herd at Fochabers. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon, who owns that herd, was himself second with Duchess 44th, a model heifer, by that most successful sire, Village Archer 71789. This bull was bred by Mr. Duthie, and got by Scottish Archer. He has fairly lifted the Gordon