

### A Canadian Visits the Illinois State Fair.

Seldom has there ever been brought together in the U. S. such an excellent aggregation of live stock as was on exhibition at the "American Royal," held at Springfield, Ill., this year. This fair has now been permanently located at the capital of the State, and the buildings which have been erected are undoubtedly unsurpassed by any on the Continent.

**Horses.**—The various breeds were well represented. The pacing and trotting races were especially interesting. The best time, 2.08½, was made by Rubenstein; Minna Mills, a pacing mare, went a mile in 2.15 without a driver or sulky.

**Cattle.**—The beef breeds were well to the fore, and many excellent animals were well brought out. The Whitefaces were much in the majority. The dairy classes were not up to the average, especially the Ayrshires.

**Sheep.**—In this department at least two Canadian breeders were conspicuous: Robt. Miller, of Brougham, Ontario, and Wm. Oliver. The sheep were not numerous, but of excellent quality, particularly the Oxford.

**Swine.**—Here the Poland-Chinas were much in the lead. The Berks were few in numbers, but above the standard in quality.

The agricultural exhibits from the various counties in the State were grand, exemplifying that "Corn is king" in Illinois. The dairy exhibit was small, but well arranged. The machinery and implement display was in itself an exhibition.

Among the many other attractions were the numerous fake side-shows, some of which were decidedly indecent, judging from external appearances, and should never be allowed on the grounds, and will in all likelihood not appear again at Springfield. X. Y. Z.

### Our Scottish Letter.

GREAT SALES OF SHORTHORN CATTLE IN ABERDEENSHIRE.

The great events of the past week have been the Shorthorn sales in Aberdeenshire. There has been sufficient novelty in the proceedings to call forth renewed discussion on the merits of Scottish Shorthorns, but when all is said, the balance is more than ever in favor of the class of cattle reared by Amos and Anthony Cruickshank, and the principal herds of which are now owned in Scotland by the gentlemen whose stock has been sold this week. The sales have represented five herds: Mr. Duthie's, at Collynie; Mr. Marr's, at Uppermill; Mr. Gordon's, at Newton; Mr. John Wilson's, at Pirriessmill; and finally Mr. George Bruce's, at Heatherwick. All of these are situated in Aberdeenshire, within easy distance of the town of Inverurie, and in a district notable for growing excellent root crops. Mr. Duthie's sale came first in the week, taking place on the Tuesday, and the proceedings closed with the Heatherwick sale on the Friday. The whole of the sales were conducted by Mr. J. McLaren Fraser, of Macdonald, Fraser & Co. (Ltd.), Perth, and prices were good all through. The notable feature was the eager demand for bull calves and yearlings. Buyers were present from all parts of Scotland, Ireland, England, and Wales, and there were also round the rings gentlemen who had the South American market in view. Whether this was the ultimate destination of all the bulls, it was undoubtedly the South American demand which gave tone to the proceedings. Color counts for something in these days, and rich roans—darker rather than lighter—are all the rage. Red, with pronounced white markings, is not so much in favor, and, except for special lines, white distinctly depreciates the stock. Some idea of the trade may be inferred from the averages. Mr. Duthie had £39 18s. 8d. for 49 animals; Mr. Marr had £36 4s. 6d. for 58; Mr. Gordon, of Newton, had £41 5s. 4d. for 46; and Mr. Bruce had £35 5s. for 76. Mr. Wilson's lot were bull calves only, and were sold along with Mr. Gordon's. It may be useful by way of comparison to look at the averages for bull calves only. Mr. Duthie sold 27 at £70 6s. 21s.; Mr. Marr sold the same number at £45 4s. 61s.; Mr. Gordon sold 12 at £36 2s.; Mr. Wilson sold 18 at £32 2s. 10d.; and Mr. Bruce sold 16 at £27 16s. 6d. These prices are a better indication of the state of trade than any other quotations that might be given. As in the case of cows and heifers sold, some are generally out of season or doubtful breeders, and thus it needs discrimination rightly to value the averages for such. The heifer calves are, however, exempt from this objection, and the averages for them may be useful also. Mr. Duthie had £46 5s. 91s. for 12; Mr. Marr had £22 4s. 61s. for 6; Mr. Gordon had £35 14s. for 8; and Mr. Bruce had £28 10s. 11d. for 16. Yearling heifers were also doing well. Mr. Marr sold eight of them at £31 15s. 31s.; Mr. Gordon sold seven at £46 10s.; and Mr. Bruce sold fifteen at £40 91s. The highest price made during the four days was 300 gs. (£315), paid by Mr. Philo L. Mills, Ruddington, Nottingham, for one of Mr. Duthie's bull calves, Crested Knight, by the champion bull, Pride of the Morning, and out of a cow belonging to the world-famed "Clipper" tribe at Sittyton. This is the most popular of the Cruickshank tribes. Whenever a "Clipper" enters the sale ring there is good bidding, and 300 gs. for a bull calf has been an unknown figure in the Shorthorn world on this side of the Atlantic for many a day. The second best price of the week was made for another Collynie bull calf, Lordly Archer, whose breeding attracts from its novelty. He was got by the out-

and-out Sittyton bull, Scottish Archer, Mr. Duthie's best sire, out of a Bates cow, and the cross is a happy one. His color is a splendid rich roan, and he inherits the style of his dam's race, along with the wealth of flesh and depth of his sire's tribe. His price was 135 gs., or £141 15s., and Mr. Mills again was buyer. Best of Archers made 130 gs., or £136 10s., from the same gentleman. Lavender Archer, whose dam was a noted cow from the family which produced the famous Count Lavender, made 105 gs., his buyer being Mr. Cookson, from Wiltshire; and other two made 100 gs. apiece. A heifer calf named Lady Clara III. also sold for 100 gs., her buyer being Mr. Bell, Ratcheugh, Alnwick. So determined were many of the English buyers to secure the pick of the Collynie bull calves that only one of the eminent Scottish breeders, Mr. Gilmour, of Montrave, was able to secure one of the best, at 100 gs. The others had to try their luck at Mr. Marr's sale on the following day, when two of the bull calves again made 105 gs. apiece. In spite of all that the Scottish breeders could do, however, the first of these, Royal Flush, by Captain of the Guard, was taken off to the South of England by Lord Baring, Basingstoke. Mr. C. M. Cameron, Balnakyle, Munlochy, in Ross-shire, tried hard to get this bull, but was beaten. He had better luck next time and secured Fabulous Fortune, a get of the same sire as the last, at the same money. Mr. John Marr, Cairnbrogie, Oldmeldrum, the eminent breeder of Clydesdales, is founding a new herd at his farm, and purchased several good things at all the sales. He was a bidder for both of these calves, and missing them, secured a rare breeding-like youngster in Fashion's Favorite, by Wanderer 60138, a very fine old bull. This calf cost 68 gs. Mr. Duthie gave 75 gs. for the first calf in the sale, a son of Captain of the Guard. The best cows were sold at Mr. Gordon's sale. He got 100 gs. for Red Ruth, a daughter of his noble bull, Star of Morning 58189, the best old bull in the North of Scotland to-day, and sire of Mr. Duthie's champion bull, Pride of Morning. Taking the bull calves, the following are the averages made by the produce of the following sires: Pride of Morning 64546, three at £154; Scottish Archer 58883, nine at £91 11s. 81s.; Captain of the Guard 58596, fourteen at £53 14s.; Wanderer 60138, seven at £44 14s.; Abbotsford 66588, two at £40 8s. 6d.; Touchstone 60073, three at £39 11s.; Star of Morning 58189, six at £37 9s.; Prince of Fashion 64587, thirteen at £32 15s. 4d.; and Bapton Czar 66647, nine at £30 2s. All of these are well-bred Sittyton or Cruickshank bulls, of varying merit individually, but all, as the prices quoted show, much above the average as breeding bulls. The best young bull seen in the North at these sales is the latest purchase for Uppermill, Spicy Robin. He was bred by Mr. J. Deane Willis, Bapton Manor, Codford, Wilts, who owns the best Cruickshank herd in England and breeds some of the best things seen in the show or sale ring in this country. Mr. Duthie is using a young sire named Twinkling Star, which was bred at Newton by Mr. Gordon and is expected to prove one of the best breeding bulls in the North. He is closely related to several of the most valuable females sold during the week. The principal stock bull in Mr. Bruce's herd at Heatherwick is Lord Chamberlain 67338, a son of the fine Collynie bull Chamberlain, for which Mr. Mills paid 160 gs. at the Dunglass sale a year ago. This bull is breeding well and will be heard about. Two notable purchasers of females at these sales were Lord Polwarth and the Earl Percy. These noblemen have noted herds of Booth cattle and have always been regarded as props of that side of the house. We do not suppose either intends to abandon his principles, but Lord Polwarth at least means to try an interesting experiment. He is putting the heifers purchased this week to a Booth bull, and hopes to make an alteration for the better, combining some of the merits of both tribes and correcting some defects. Without making too much of this, there is naturally a good deal of satisfaction expressed by the patrons of Cruickshank blood that these gentlemen have looked at their favorites with so kindly an eye. "SCOTLAND YET."

### Horseshoeing Examinations.

Governor Morton, of New York State, pursuant to a law passed some months ago, recently appointed a Board to take charge of examinations of horseshoers in cities effected by the law. The Board consists of one veterinary, two master horseshoers and two journeymen.

The Board's duty is to hold examinations in each city in New York of over 50,000 inhabitants, grant a certificate to any person qualified to practice, and to receive a \$2 fee from each candidate for examination. Under the law no one is allowed to practice horseshoeing unless duly registered in a book to be kept by the county clerk; the fee being 25 cents. In order to register as master journeyman, it is necessary to have passed the examination of the Board and to have served an apprenticeship of at least three years. The cities coming under the law are New York, Brooklyn, Albany, Troy, Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse.

### Well Liked in Australia.

Jenkin Thomas, Victoria, Australia:—"Enclosed you will find money-order to the value of 6s., being my subscription to the ADVOCATE to September, '97. We are well pleased with the paper, and find very useful information in it."

## FARM.

### Handy Farm Contrivances and Methods.

Upon almost every farm there are some handy original devices, or improved methods and practices not generally known, which, if given to the public, could be utilized by others in rendering farm management more economical and remunerative. This department is intended to bring out such information for the benefit of our readers, and is to be maintained by them in holding out a helping hand to their fellow-workers by the interchange of descriptions of labor-saving tools and contrivances, particular ways of management, original and successful experiments tried, or any other feature in connection with farming not generally known.

To encourage subscribers to contribute to this department of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, we offer a cash prize of \$2 for the best, and a second prize of \$1 for the next best, contribution received prior to the 15th of each month. These and other contributions deemed of sufficient merit will be published as rapidly as our space will permit, but will not necessarily appear in order of merit. Compensation according to our standing offer for accepted matter will be allowed for suggestions published but not awarded a prize. The decision in every instance will be final. Descriptions must be written upon one side of the paper with pen and ink, and must bear the contributor's full signature and address. They must be as short and concise as possible, 100 words being just as good or better than 500 if they tell the same story. Where an illustration will assist in making a description clearer, a rough pen sketch should accompany it on a separate sheet from the written matter. Every contributor must be a subscriber to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. These contributions must not be mere reproductions of what have been published elsewhere. What we want is original matter. Plan sufficiently ahead so that the contributions will be as seasonable as practicable.

### Coming Conventions and Institute Meetings.

As our reports invariably show, the various conventions of agricultural associations, etc., held during the winter season provide a great amount of valuable information from practical men. The entomological meeting reported in this issue is the first convention of the season; the next will be that of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, to convene in Kingston on Wednesday and Thursday, December 2nd and 3rd. On this occasion the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, and the Ontario Deputy Minister of Agriculture, as well as President Ruddick, of the Kingston Dairy School; Prof. Hutt, of Guelph College; and Prof. Craig and Director Saunders, of the Dominion Experimental Farm, have promised to be present and address various sessions.

The next in order will be the annual Bee-keepers' Convention, for which an excellent programme is being arranged, to be held in Toronto (probably in the council chamber), December 8th, 9th and 10th. This Association has formerly met in January.

During the Fat Stock Show at Guelph, meetings will be held on Dec. 7th, at 7.30 p. m., of the Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association (annual); joint public meeting on Dec. 8th, at 7.30; annual meeting Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association Dec. 9th, at 7.30 p. m.; and annual meeting Dominion Swine Breeders' Association, Dec. 10th, at 7.30 p. m.

The Ontario Poultry Convention will take place in Guelph on Wednesday, 13th, and Thursday, 14th January, the Poultry Show being held at same place, from January 10th to 15th.

The Dairy Conventions are very important and always largely attended. The first to be held is the Eastern Dairymen's, at Brockville, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, January 5th, 6th and 7th.

The Creameries Association will hold their annual gathering at St. Mary's on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the 12th, 13th and 14th January.

On the corresponding days of the next week (19th, 20th and 21st) the Western Dairymen's Association will convene in Brantford. The best available authorities have been secured to speak at the different gatherings.

Superintendent Hodson, of Guelph, has arranged a grand series of Farmers' Institute meetings, regular and supplementary, for the season, beginning with Nov. 17th, in the Parry Sound, Muskoka, Algoma, and St. Joseph's Island districts, and continuing in various divisions through December, January, February, and into the first week in March. For regular meetings the Province is arranged in eleven divisions, and for supplementary meetings into ten divisions. How thoroughly Mr. Hodson has developed the Institute work throughout the Province will be seen when we say that no less than 450 different meetings will be held, and the services of over fifty men, most of them experienced speakers at farmers' meetings, have been secured. The list includes: Messrs. Thos. McMillan, Seaford, Ont.; W. S. Fraser, Bradford; Prof. H. L. Hutt, O. A. C., Guelph; L. Pantou, Oxford Mills; R. Harcourt, B. S. A., Asst. Chemist, O. A. C.; Prof. Pantou, O. A. C., Guelph; Wm. Smith, M. P., Columbus; A. McNeill, Windsor; A. J. Reynolds, Danforth; D. Z. Gibson, Willow Grove; Prof. Reed, V. S., O. A. C., Guelph; Elmer Lick, Oshawa; Mungo McNab, Cowal; D. W. Beadle, M. A., Toronto; Alf. Brown, Picton; A. W. Peart, Burlington; J. B. Reynolds, B. A., O. A. C., Guelph; H. Glendenning, Manilla; Thos. A. Duff, Toronto; Andrew Elliott, Galt; Geo. Harcourt, Toronto; R. F. Holterman, Brantford; Prof. Dean, O. A. C., Guelph; Jas. Sheppard, Queenston; John McMillan, M. P., Seaford; D. E. Smith, B. A., Brampton; T. G. Raynor, B. S. A., Rosehall; Joseph Yuill, Carleton Place; Jas. McEwing, Drayton; E. Morden, Niagara Falls South; M. Burrell, St. Catharines; Lieut.-Col. D. McCrae, Guelph; R. Thompson, St. Catharines; N. Monteith, B. S. A., Stratford; W. C. Shearer, Bright; W. W. Hillborn, Leamington; T. H. Mason, Strathville;