

Ventilation Better than Tuberculin.

In his evidence, recently, before the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, at Ottawa, Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Chief Veterinary Inspector, stated that, so far, no change has been made in the policy of the Department re tuberculosis. Cattle of any kind coming from other countries, were tested in quarantine. With the exception of animals comprising a few herds which were under the control and supervision of officers of the Department, no official testing with tuberculin is now undertaken, although subject to certain conditions, it is supplied free to qualified veterinarians when employed by owners of cattle.

While no one was more firmly convinced than himself of the value of tuberculin as a diagnostic agent, yet it was subject to certain limitations which justified his attitude in counselling a policy of comparative inertia, now being followed. So far no satisfactory and intelligent method of dealing with bovine tuberculosis has been evolved, and he considered it better to await results of investigation being conducted by scientists in different parts of the world, in order that they might be sure of achieving reasonable results, and thus making some progress in the eradication of tuberculosis before deciding upon a policy which would involve universal and promiscuous testing. He believed firmly in tuberculin, when honestly used, as a diagnostic agent, and for specific and definite purposes, but the fraudulent methods adopted by many owners to prevent the occurrence of a typical reaction, the time which must necessarily elapse after infection before it is possible to obtain from the animal a reaction from tuberculin, would require frequent and repeated tests before it is safe to pronounce free from tuberculosis any herd infected, as well as other limitations which must be allowed for and overcome before compulsory testing should be resorted to. In the meantime, no effort should be spared to induce owners of cattle to adopt every possible means of combating the disease by practical common-sense methods. Thousands of animals were yearly becoming affected, owing to unsanitary conditions under which their owners insist in keeping them, and the importance of live stock of thorough and effective ventilation was of infinitely greater value than tuberculin. To put the case plainly, he stated that stockmen were breeding tuberculosis a great deal faster through neglect of this important subject of ventilation than it would ever be possible to stamp it out by promiscuous use of tuberculin and the slaughter of diseased animals. He was carrying on experiments at the present time which he hoped would be productive of results of value to the stock-owning public.

Dip the Lambs.

When the ewes of the flock are shorn, any ticks that may be upon them will transfer themselves to the longer fleeces of the lambs, where they will find more congenial quarters, and will fatten on fresh young blood. The dipping of the lambs, therefore, in a solution of one of the advertised dips, or of tobacco, a few days after shearing the ewes, should be among the certainties on no account to be neglected. And the ewes, also, will be the better for a dip, or, at least, of having some of the solution that is left over poured on their backs and rubbed on their sides to clean the skin and allay any itchiness that may affect them. A tank or vat made for the purpose of dipping, with a dripping board or platform at the going-out end on which to squeeze out the surplus of solution and carry it back into the tank, should be provided where the flock is of any considerable size, but in the case of small flocks the lambs may be dipped in an ordinary vinegar barrel, and stood in a washtub for the dripping and squeezing-out process. The dipping solution, for best effect, should be warm, though this is not essential, and soft water should, if possible, be used. As a rule, we believe the dipping of the lambs in the spring is the only treatment Canadian flocks receive for the destruction of vermin, but we know from experience that it pays well to treat again in the late fall or early winter, by either dipping or pouring, to guard against the sheep suffering from ticks or lice towards spring, and failing in condition at a time when treatment is impracticable, and the suffering must be endured all through the warm spring months till the usual shearing time, as early shearing (unwashed) is unsafe in the case of in-lamb ewes or sheep in ordinary condition; therefore, to keep a clear conscience and ensure the comfort and thrift of the flock, make it a fixed rule to treat for ticks both in spring and fall. The cost will be doubly repaid in increased growth of wool and gain in weight, and in the general health of the flock.

While some are talking about the sins of the pork-packer, the fellow with hogs to sell is getting the high prices. Prices for hogs may go down, undoubtedly will; but is not part of the bitterness of the criticism by some due to the fact that hog prices are good, and they have now to sell?

Notes from Ireland.

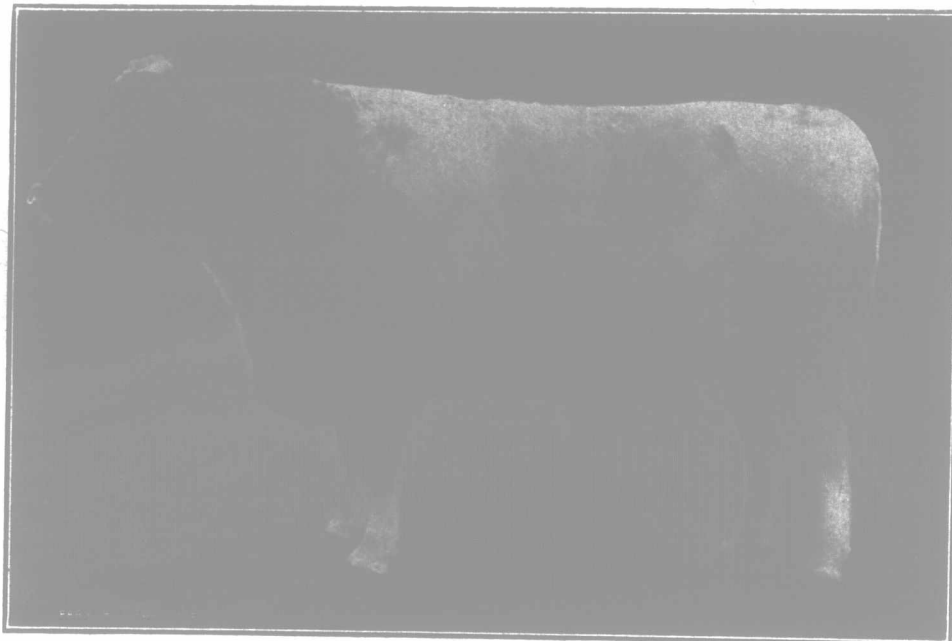
THE NATIONAL CATTLE SHOW.

This letter must principally deal with the great annual spring show of the Royal Dublin Society, which took place at Ballsbridge, in the Irish capital, about the middle of April. Of late years this event has been assuming increased importance in stock-breeding circles, not only in Ireland, but also in the whole of the United Kingdom. This year it aroused, as usual, keen interest all over the country, and its offcoming appeared to possess more than customary attractiveness for our cross-channel neighbors in England and Scotland, who were strongly represented, not merely as spectators, but, to a larger extent than ever before, as exhibitors in the different sections. Not so very many years ago discussion was rife regarding the advisability of allowing English and Scotch breeders to exhibit in open competition at this show, for the simple reason—let it be confessed—that, as an invariable rule, the visitors had the better of the argument, and took home with them the most coveted trophies and honors of the ring. It then appeared that it was a forlorn hope to expect Irish breeders to compete successfully with the old-established British herds; the best that the Emerald Isle contained were no match for the tip-top specimens of the different breeds brought across the water to put in array against them. It is, however, strikingly significant of the change that has come over Irish stock-breeding during the past few seasons, that this year, at any rate, so far as the Shorthorn is concerned—and this breed is practically the backbone of our cattle industry—our cross-channel rivals have been kept in their place. In all close on 30 English specimens of the red, white and roan were present, and of these only three succeeded in winning first prizes, although they made claim in every class; while all the championships and special prizes for the breed were secured by Irish exhibitors. However, as I may not occupy unlimited space, I must be more

subsequently happened, the rare honor of championship of the show, was bestowed upon a wonderfully symmetrical roan, named Linksfield Champion, owned and exhibited by a prominent lady admirer of the breed, Miss Staples, of Durrow, Queen's Co. This bull last year made what is called in theatrical language, "a tour of the Provinces," and at every show exhibited he met and defeated all comers. He was bred in Scotland by Col. Johnston, of Elgin, and brought over to Ireland a couple of years ago at the not too extravagant price of 50 gs. When exhibited at Dublin he aroused a great amount of attention, and his grand, evenly-fleshed frame, his rare substance and excellent quality, pleased the critics immensely. Ere the show had been many hours in progress he passed into the possession of Mr. F. Miller, of Birkenhead, at the very handsome figure of 500 gs.—ten times his original cost! The photograph reproduced herewith will convey a very fair idea of the general conformation of this bull, although in some respects it hardly does him justice, for he stands closer to the ground, and is fuller and better rounded behind. Reserve for the championship fell to another richly-fleshed roan, in Diamond Link, also bred in Scotland, but now owned by Mr. H. J. C. Toler Aylward, of Cokelenny. This bull won the first prize as the best two-year-old in the show. In the big class of 140 "young" yearling bulls, the place of honor was filled by an exceedingly promising youngster, Extra Stamp by name, bred and exhibited by Sir H. H. Smiley, Bart., of Lorn Co., Antrim. Other successful Shorthorn exhibitors included: Mr. Geo. Harrison, of Gainford Hall, Darlington; Mr. H. S. Leon, Blethley, Bucks; Mr. R. G. Nash, Lucan; Mr. A. Smith, Ballacolla; Mrs. E. Walsh, Cootehill, and the Earl of Bessborough.

Never before has such a fine display been white by the Herefords. All told, 104 of the picturesque white-faces appeared, and special interest and tone were imparted to the section, by reason of the fact that His Majesty the King sent over from his choice herd at Windsor

five grand specimens, which did a good deal of winning. Sir J. R. Cotterell, Bart.; Mr. Peter Coates and Mr. A. E. Hughes, three other well-known and successful English breeders, were also strongly represented; but still the visitors had by no means a monopoly of the honors, as Col. Everard (of tobacco-culture fame), Major Hillas and Major Hamilton creditably upheld the honor of the home country. For use on the great grazing tracts of the midlands, Herefords have much to commend them, and no doubt the excellent turnout of the breed at this show will give them increased favor in the eyes of Irish farmers. An outstanding animal was the King's great champion bull, Fireking,



Linksfield Champion (86401).

Shorthorn bull; born, May, 1903. Winner of Chaloner Plate as champion, Royal Dublin Show, 1906.

specific in my remarks and come directly to the salient characteristics of the show. The fixture, which, as indicated already, was very largely attended, was twice visited by His Excellency Lord Aberdeen, who evinced very keen interest in the proceedings. In all respects the show may be said to have reflected an all-round improvement in the cattle kept in the country; indeed, on no previous occasion has a better collection of breeding stock been seen in any Irish show-yard—this applying not only to the quality, but also to the numerical strength of the exhibits. The services of several prominent English and Scotch breed experts were requisitioned for the judging.

Speaking generally, it was for its magnificent display of Shorthorns that the show was particularly noted. In nine classes this breed was represented by no less than 553 specimens, some of the individual classes containing exceptionally large entries; thus the two provided for "young" and "old" yearling bulls attracted 140 and 130 entries, respectively—the others also being well furnished. The all-round standard of merit attained by the exhibits was gratifyingly high, and needless to say, competition for places proved exceedingly keen. One of the healthiest signs apparent in the section was the increase in the number of "tenant farmer breeders" among the exhibitors, especially from the north, where the breeding of Shorthorns is rapidly becoming a favorite business. Some of these men have already made a great success of the work, and not a few animals have been brought out by them that have sold in public auction at prices running well over 100 gs. But this is digressing, and we have not yet finished with the show. The section set apart for best bulls is always a notable one at Ballsbridge, inasmuch as it succeeds in attracting some of the best "one-buck" in the country. This year the class contained only 50 splendid bulls, which formed quite a fine feature. After a considerable amount of discussion the leading position, and, together with it, as

which is as typical a specimen of the breed as has been seen for a long time. He carried all before him in English shows, nor were his colors lowered at our Irish fixture.

The comely black Aberdeen-Angus mustered to the extent of 153, and this section contained a notable group of well-bred and symmetrical females from a prominent Scotch herd—that belonged to Mr. Kerr, of Harviestoun Castle. The display, all in all, was a most creditable one, and a very good standard was attained, even in the comparative absence of cross-channel exhibits to strengthen it. Among our Irish exhibitors the most successful were: Mr. E. H. Woods, of Skerries; Mr. E. J. Beaumont Nesbitt, of Edenderry; Mr. A. J. Owen, of Shanvagh; Mr. E. Coey, of Lorne, and Mr. Hum Bland, of Greystones.

These are the breeds that will doubtless appeal most to Canadian readers, and for the remainder it will suffice to merely mention that some excellent specimens of the following breeds were also exhibited: Norfolk and Suffolk Red Polled, Keries, Dexters, Jerseys and Ayrshires.

A good feature was also formed by the several classes for agricultural horses, where Shires and Clydesdales were catered for; while in the section set apart for breeding swine there was a fine representation of quality, even though the entries were not so numerous as they should have been in a country which ranks so prominently in the production of bacon. An interesting development, however, was the appearance for the first time of some specimens of the Large Black breed. Hitherto, the Large Yorks have been alone at this show, but now the Blacks have made their debut, and it would seem as if the latter had promise of a good future in Ireland. At any rate, several specimens have recently been imported, and this usually means business. Before closing my remarks on this show, I would like to mention that in the class for young yearling bulls the prizes offered by the society are: 1st, £30; 2nd, £25; 3rd, £20; 4th, £15; 5th, £10; 6th, £5. Is it any wonder that an entry of 140 is secured? Although