

MANSWRAES.

A few miles out of Paisley, at the Brig 'o' Weir, is the farm of Manswraes, the home of Mr. Robt. Wilson, well known as a successful breeder of and dealer in high class Clydesdales and Ayrshires. Born at the Cross of Kilbarthan, in the heart of a district long noted as the home of some of Scotland's best Clydesdales, and reared on a farm which time and again has sent Ayrshires out to conquer at all the leading shows in Scotland, Mr. Robt. Wilson, at the age of twenty-seven, on his father's death, took up the business of breeding and exhibiting both Ayrshires and Clydesdales. To-day Mr. Wilson's herd stands in the front ranks, having gained, we are told, more prizes in the last fifty years at the Highland Society's shows for cows in milk and calf, than any other herd in Scotland. A glance over the cattle last February, as they stood in a long double row in the byre, was enough to satisfy us that we were looking at a herd that not only could hold its own in the show ring, but that also has been bred with a view to practical utility. There was no evidence of pampering, the cows being all in simply good store condition, while the young stock were all out in the fields; but a finer display of cattle, showing every point requisite for milk production, it would be hard to find. Mr. Wilson's first venture in English show rings was in 1868; since then at the Royal Agricultural shows at York in 1883, and Preston in 1886, and later still, at the British Dairy Farmers' London show of 1886, he has been most successful, while in Clydesdales, he has also made a lasting record, having sold some of the best horses that have crossed the Atlantic, among them that well-known stock horse of Messrs. Galbraith's, St. Columba, by the Prince of Wales's horse Duke of Hamilton. This horse won numerous 1st prizes in Scotland, and since his advent to America has distinguished himself by winning 1st at the Chicago show as a two-year old, and 2nd as a three-year-old in competition with some of the best horses in America, while among those that have gone from Manswraes to Canada we might mention The McKinnon, by Lord Erskine, and out of a sister to the Glasgow premium three year-old of 1892. This colt was sold last fall to parties in Ontario. Besides breeding and handling Clydesdales and Ayrshires, Mr. Wilson is proprietor of the Paisley cattle Mart, where he holds weekly sales. His card will be found in another column, and we can confidently recommend him to buyers, as a thoroughly reliable man.

Snow Eating and Abortion.

I have some experience to report in reference to sheep eating snow. Last winter I had my sheep in a stable about half a mile from the house, and watered them from a pump and trough about four rods from the stable door every day till about the 1st of February, when the pump gave out by being frozen. The sheep ran out during the day, both before and after the pump was frozen, and were housed at night. They drank the water freely once per day. I then allowed them to eat snow for a couple of weeks. About the end of that time they began to cast their lambs, and in less than two weeks I had lost nine. When eating snow their health was not so good as when drinking water; they did not seem to thrive as well, though none was actually sick. When changed from water drinking to snow eating no change in feeding was made; they got sheaf oats and timothy hay all along. I next resumed watering them regularly, and in two weeks after stopping the snow eating the trouble had ceased. I have, therefore, concluded that snow eating is not good for sheep, and, for my part, shall take care that this is not repeated. For three years before, my sheep had been watered from the pump, and I never lost a lamb by abortion.

SHEPHERD.

NOTE.—Since cases have been reported where snow eating did not produce such results, the trouble in this instance doubtless arose from some derangement caused by the sudden change from drinking an abundance of water to the very limited supply of fluid the sheep would take in the form of snow.—[ED. FARMER'S ADVOCATE.]

More Large Wheat Yields.

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I see in the April number of the ADVOCATE, where the wheat yield of Mr. Sorbys was questioned by a reader, and you ask if any know of large yields to report them. Within four miles of where I live there is a man by the name of Chas. Martin, and of his entire crop of sixty three acres, about thirty of it summerfallow, the balance on stubble and fall plowing, he thrashed fifty-four bushels to the acre of No. 1 hard; after thrashing by the machine he had fifty-three bushels, and since all is sold and weighed, he tells me it made fifty-four bushels—that is on Sec. 22, T. 18, R. 20, 2nd M. There is one Flet Smith, close to Regina, who had fifty-five, but only on ten acres.

CHAS. GILROY, Regina, N. W. T.

NOTE.—Mr. Bedford, Supt. of the Brandon Experimental Farm, reports a yield of fifty-five bushels per acre of Red Fife on tenth acre plots last season, and he states that Mr. S. J. Jure, of the Brandon district, secured a yield of fifty-five bushels per acre from a fifty acre field. It was Red Fife on summerfallow. Mr. Bedford thinks a sixty bushel yield quite possible.—[ED. FARMER'S ADVOCATE.]

Spring Show at Strathclair.

The fifth annual horse and cattle show was held at Strathclair on Thursday, April 21st. All the stock shown was in the very best of condition and fully maintained the high reputation of this section of the province. There were four classes for horses and four first prizes (all silver medals), viz.: Clydesdales, Shires, Roadsters and General Purpose. There was just one class for cattle, viz.: Pedigreed Shorthorn bulls, with two prizes, 1st, \$3; 2nd, \$2. All the horses are required to stand at Strathclair during the season or no prize awarded. In the Clydesdale class Wawanosh Chief took the 1st prize (a silver medal). This fine stallion was bred by Wm. Wellwood St. Helen's, Ont., and is now the property of Menzies Bros., Shoal Lake. The second class comprised the Shires, Early Morn again coming out victorious. He has taken one first prize at Shoal Lake and three at Strathclair, not including the grand sweepstake at Strathclair last year. The third class brought forth a splendid lot of General Purpose horses, the judges having no hesitation in awarding the silver medal to Black Shales, owned by Robt. McGregor, of Rapid City. Black Shales is an imported Hackney. Great interest centered around the ring when "blood horses" were summoned on the show ground. The judges seemed to take a long time to make up their minds as to the best horse. However, they wisely gave the medal to Royal Grit. Royal Grit also took the first prize at Shoal Lake. He is a newly imported horse, having been brought into Manitoba this spring by Mr. Jno. A. King, of Bayfield, Ont., the horse having been bred by John Smith, sen., of the same town and father of the owner. The last class was the pedigreed Shorthorn bulls, Mr. Edward Bunnell's Royal Hope being proclaimed worthy of the first prize. This fine bull has taken four first prizes at Strathclair and two firsts at Shoal Lake. This fair has, without doubt, been the finest ever held in this town, which speaks very highly for the fine lot of stock that is being imported by the farmers and stock breeders of the district. The judges were Messrs. Coutts, Campbell and Baldor, all of Strathclair, and they deserve praise for the able manner in which they discharged their duties.

Spring Show at Birtle.

The annual spring show was held at Birtle, Man., on Thursday, April 21st. The show of horses was much smaller than in previous years owing to the fine weather which kept farmers at home to complete seeding. There were three classes shown, namely, Heavy Draught, General Purpose and Carriage. In the Heavy Draught Major-General Wilkinson's noted Clydesdale stallion Forest Prince (imp.) [1186] (5507) was declared the winner. Thos. Young's Broughton Prince (6548) being a good second. Forest Prince was foaled June 17, 1885, and was bred by Jas. Motion, Esq., Hauplands, West Kilbride, Scotland; sire King of the Forest (1170), dam Jean of Hauplands (2571); sire of dam the famed Black Prince (65). In the General Purpose class Mr. D. M. Stewart's Canadian-bred Lord Haddo (owner got no certificate) was pronounced a winner. He was by Old Lord Haddo (3872), and is a good stock getter. In the Carriage horses the Cleminson Co.'s Clipper came off winner, and Wm. McKay's Bismarck second. Clipper was sired by Old Clear Grit, and his dam, Nellie, was got by the well-known thoroughbred Harper, a Kentucky bred stallion by Lexington. The present financial condition of the Birtle Agricultural Society would not allow any prizes being offered, but under the presidency of William Drummond, Esq., manager of the General Wilkinson Ranch, it stands a good chance of its present condition being improved.

Barn Plans Called For—A Prize Offered.

Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE, Winnipeg, Man.:

DEAR SIR,—Under the heading of Questions and Answers, could you insert the following query in your June number:—"Barn building with silo inside. Can any of the readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, give plan of a barn with a silo in centre, for housing sixty cattle, the silo to be so placed as to be easy to fill, and convenient to feed from; the cattle to be fed from in front, and the manure to be hauled out with a stone boat, hide or sleigh. The silage must be kept from freezing, so must be located somewhere near the middle. The barn must be on the flat prairie, as there is no bank near. The sub-structure will be stone, where the cattle are, while the superstructure will be divided off for grain, feed-cutter, chopper, hay, etc. Give drawing of both. An estimate of probable cost would also be acceptable to many others besides your present enquiring reader."

"INVICTA."

NOTE.—In view of the importance of the subject to large numbers of our readers in Manitoba and the Northwest, we will give a prize of \$5 for the best plan, with description in response to the above enquiry. Plans must be in this office by July 15th.

The Hog Question.

BY F. W. FEARMAN.

There has been considerable correspondence in reference to the values of the different breeds of hogs for breeders and packers' purposes, more particularly referring to the improved Yorkshires and Berkshires. I have long been acquainted with the latter breed, but not until this season have I been able to secure any quantity of the former. While the Berkshires have for many years held first place it was during a quite different state of demand from the trade that prevails at the present time. Then it was for a large, fat hog, suitable for the lumbermen and the backwoods farmer, and the Berkshire with its heavy head and shoulders, and almost all fat sides filled the bill. Now the farmer's family, with their much lighter labor, refuse to eat the solid fat of the log rolling and rail splitting days of long ago, and require the long bodied, mixed fat and lean, as well as the resident of the city and town. Then, again, the lumbermen get their pork in at half the duty that anyone else does, thus the demand for a lighter and a leaner hog. Recently Mr. Jas. Blogden, of Carlisle, brought in to our market a fine load of three-quarter bred Improved Yorkshire dressing hogs. There was a keen competition for these and they brought over the market price. I bought them and measured and weighed one of them as follows in length:—

	Size.	Weight.
Head.....	10 in.	16 lbs.
Shoulders.....	10 "	56 "
Sides.....	27 "	107 "
Hams.....	12 "	58 "
Girth.....	3 ft. 8 "	5 "
Total.....		242 lbs.

The head and sides cut close to the shoulders, all untrimmed, lard left in the sides. This was one of the litter of eleven that at eight and a-half months old averaged 224 pounds, and was two and a-half months on stubble, and two and a-half months in the pen, and fed on chopped oats and peas, and were quiet, good feeders, and increased in weight very fast. These hogs were finer in the limbs, longer and deeper in the sides than any Yorkshire that I have seen, but still too heavy in head and shoulders. I will, if I have the opportunity, make a similar test on the Berkshires and Tamworths, and should like to see it done by other packers, and the results given. The meats are fat, too fat for choice stuff, and not so streaky or have expected, but still there is a larger proportion of side than is usual,