

Our Scottish Letter.

The leading feature of the past fortnight would not be difficult to summarize. The agitation in favor of the opening of the ports to Canadian store cattle continues to occupy the attention of those who have leisure, and harvest has been the chief concern of the great majority of farmers. Flock-masters have been busy marketing their lambs, and it is wonderful how sharp an influence is exerted over stock profits by our variable climate. All the lamb sales opened with depressed prices, on account of the prolonged drought, parched pastures, and unpromising turnip crop. August brought more moisture, and some heavy rains have fallen; indeed, when it has rained during August, it poured. Pastures have rapidly revived, but most important of all, the turnip crop has sprung forward in a very remarkable fashion. It now promises to be an exceedingly good crop, and, in consequence, prices of lambs have advanced all round, and flock-masters are much better pleased with the later prices than with the earlier. Turnips are a strong growth in most places, and although finger-and-toe threatens in some districts, farmers are not disposed to complain. Potatoes, however, are the crop of the season. The effect of the dry season is seen in the almost total absence of disease and the prolific nature of the yield. Of course, prices are not likely to be so high on this account, and some farmers are disposed to think that a certain percentage of potato disease is not a bad thing. It tends to limit the supply, and consequently enhances prices.

In spite of the changeable weather, harvest makes good progress, and the bulk has been secured in good order. Straw is scarce, and the stack yards are not bulking very well; still, the farmer is not excessively grumbling, and if grain should maintain a fair price during the year, the cereal crop of 1901 may turn out fairly well. With your mammoth yield of wheat in the Northwest, prices of wheat are not at all likely to reach a high level, and the stack of wheat in Suffolk, of 1873 harvest, is not likely to be broken this year. It has been kept entire because of a vow of its owner that it would not be threshed until wheat was again 50 shillings per quarter. That will not happen during the coming year, at any rate, and the stack may stand long enough before it does happen. The Agricultural Returns for 1901 have just been issued, and these show that the revival in wheat-growing, consequent on the Leiter exploit, has already spent itself, and this year there are actually 144,077 acres less under wheat than there were in 1900. It is impossible to grow wheat profitably in this country while rent has to be paid for land and Canada can send such quantities grown on the virgin soils of the great Northwest. These agricultural returns, made up as at 4th of June, do not make pleasant reading. The area under crop this year is very much less than it was in 1900, and the area under permanent pasture has rapidly extended. This year it amounts to 120,850 acres over the total area in 1900. All this is lost to cropping, and this means rural depopulation and the increasing congestion of urban areas. Wise men of all classes are speculating on the width to which this laying down of land to pasture may extend, and no one attempts to ignore the tragic significance of the phenomenon in a national sense. The laborer must be kept on the soil, should that be at all possible, but the farmer cannot be expected to do this on philanthropic grounds. It will require statesmanship of a high order to grapple with this problem, and meantime the evil increases every day. Both moral and social evils must be grappled with if an effective and permanent remedy is to be provided.

The returns bearing on the live-stock question in some respects support the contention of those who are advocating the importation of Canadian stores. The cattle population is down since last year, and the reduction amounts to 3.7 per cent. of those under two years ago as compared with the figures for 1900. This seems to point to a scarcity of the cattle wanted for feeding purposes. Of course, everyone knows of this scarcity, but the best guarantee that it will not always continue lies in the fact that the net decrease in cattle population is only 0.6 per cent. overhead. The number of breeding animals is well maintained, and while this continues there will always be the guarantee of future increase in the numbers of saleable young stock. Too many young females have gone to the butcher of late years, and this should have been resisted by their owners. No doubt the temptation to sell is great, but it is a penny-wise-pound-foolish policy to slay the goose that lays the golden egg. If breeders would but look a little way ahead, they would never sell any but the underbred females, and would hold religiously by those having a clean record and likely to breed well. Undoubtedly the scarcity and consequent high price of stores is giving life to the Canadian agitation, and influential enough support is being obtained for opening the ports. The Minister of Agriculture has so far made no sign, but the general expectation is that he will let well enough alone. Meantime, the forces are being organized, and if Dr. Farquharson gets his own way and obtains sufficient evidence of the agricultural view being favorable to the repeal of existing legislation so far as Canada is concerned, he will make the business a matter of high policy and move an amendment to the address from the throne next session. The breeder hitherto has been rather silent on the subject, but he may waken up, and if he does so, being in the majority and pretty determined, he will not be easily shaken off by Dr. Farquharson's friends. With very few exceptions,

all farmers who are breeders are in favor of the present policy. It keeps the door shut against disease when it is shut, and this is as fair a policy as any can desire. "SCOTLAND YET."

Report of Live Stock Exhibits at the Great Eastern Exhibition.

SHORTHORNS.

The liberal grant made by the Dominion Shorthorn Association of \$100, and of \$100 added by the Hon. M. H. Cochrane, to the Fair Association's class for Shorthorns made the offerings at the Sherbrooke (P. Q.) Exhibition, August 31 to September 7, in the class worthy of the best exhibitors to win and brought out an unusually strong competition. The principal exhibitors were the Hillhurst Farm, H. I. Elliott, Danville, and H. W. Burton, Huntingville, P. Q. The Hillhurst Farm were out with all their best cattle, and were brought out in fine form. The noted bull, Joy of Morning, was out in fine form, and won the diploma as best of any age. The yearling Silver Plate bull is a grand, good one, and will make a hard one to defeat for another year at our western fairs. The aged females were in good form and won in their different sections. The young stock was not in such good form and had to take second place. Both the aged and young herds, as well as the Dominion Shorthorn specials, were won by this herd. H. I. Elliott was out with a good string, but not in high show fix. He won first on yearling heifer; first on bull calf, a good one sired by Indian Fame; second on herd, and five thirds and two seconds. H. W. Burton won second on two-year-old bull, bull calf, two- and three-year-old heifer, and first on yearling heifer and heifer calf.

ABERDEEN-ANGUS.

In this class there were only two herds out—A. G. Spafford's, Compton, and D. M. Wilson's, Moe's River. Mr. Spafford's cattle were in good shape, and won all the firsts, both diplomas and both herds prizes.

HOLSTEINS.

Holsteins were out strong. The cattle were good and in good show condition. The principal exhibitors were J. M. Moretel, who won three firsts and third in the old and young herds, and O. Sweet, who won first on aged and young herds, and diplomas on bull and female.

HEREFORDS.

Herefords were not out as strong as in other years. H. D. Smith and D. M. Wilson were the only men. The Ingleside herd won all firsts, both herds and diplomas, on a string of well-brought-out cattle, which speaks well for the reputation of the herd, considering the success he met with at the Toronto Exhibition.

AYRSHIRES.

In this class there was very strong competition, several strong herds being brought out in good condition. The principal exhibitors were the Isaleigh Grange Farm, J. Logan, T. D. McCallum, Mr. McFarlane, of Trout River, and Mr. Blue, of Sherbrooke. Logan won first on old and young herds and diploma on bull of any age. The Isaleigh Grange Farm won diploma on best female, and first, second and third on a grand trio of aged cows, imported by the late manager of the Isaleigh Grange Farm. They are a grand lot, and are, without doubt, hard to equal on this side of the water. T. D. McCallum, of Danville, made his first exhibit, and brought out some very good animals, headed by the imported bull, Napoleon of Auchinbrain, who was first in his class. McFarlane had a fine exhibit, but was unable to get in on account of the strong competition.

The Isaleigh Grange Farm were the only exhibitors in Guernseys, and had, as usual, a string of well-fitted cattle.

SHEEP.

The Leicesters were a strong-contested class. The principal exhibitors were H. W. Burton, W. H. Martin, D. Baxter, J. Parnell, R. Frank, and Mr. Baldwin.

In the Shropshires, H. Roy, of Ormstown, was out with a flock of grand sheep well fitted. They won all firsts, seconds, and diploma for pen. Isaleigh Grange Farm came in for the balance of the prizes on some good sheep, but in field condition.

SOUTHDOWNS.

The Huntley Farm, Pt. Claire, had a strong string of well-fitted sheep in good show form, and won all firsts. H. I. Elliott, of Danville, had a string of good sheep out, but not fitted high enough to win in the strong competition brought out by the Huntley flock. He won the seconds, and Guy Carr, of Compton, the thirds.

COTSWOLDS.

Cotswolds were shown by A. & E. Girouard, of Quebec.

CHEVIOTS.

Cheviots were shown by Rushton Farm, R. Clark and Guy Carr.

SWINE.

In Berkshires, Martin, Stevens and Morrill were the principal exhibitors. The pen was won by John Lemoyne. In Chester Whites, A. J. Stevens won all firsts and diploma. Yorkshires were shown by A. Chupin, A. Gingras and J. Parnell. The latter won the pen. The display, on the whole, was good and in good shape.

The show of heavy horses was the smallest that the exhibition has ever had. No Clydesdales, and only three Percherons. The classes for light horses were well filled. The show, on the whole, was a success—good weather and big crowds.

Toronto Industrial Exhibition.

The live-stock display at the Industrial this year has well maintained the reputation of the Toronto Show as being unquestionably the greatest annual event of the kind on the continent of America. No other nearly equals it in the number of classes of pure-bred stock so well filled with the highest class of animals in breeding, quality and condition. This statement applies equally to horses, cattle, sheep, and swine; and also to poultry. The good prices prevailing for all classes of breeding stock, and the satisfactory market for nearly all live-stock products, has stimulated improvement, as was evidenced by the splendid display of animals of high-class quality that filed into the judging rings at Toronto last week. There was, indeed, scarcely a single weak class in any of the breeds, while in respect to the Shorthorns, among the beef breeds, and the Ayrshires, among the dairy breeds, it is a question whether the display has ever been excelled in the history of exhibitions in Canada. The list of entries in the live-stock catalogue, though not an absolutely reliable index of the number of animals present, since there are always some absentees and some duplicates, is yet sufficient for an approximate estimate, as there are always some which have been entered after the compiling of the catalogue. The list of entries is as follows: Horses, 910; cattle, 976; sheep, 497; swine, 362. The number of pigs is considerably lower than last year, partly owing to the fact that a number of breeders were also exhibiting at the Pan-American and had divided their forces, and partly to the unprecedented demand for breeding stock in sympathy with the bounding market for export bacon. The live-stock show at Toronto this year was more nearly a Dominion or Pan-Canadian character than ever before, cattle and horses being in competition from the Provinces of Nova Scotia in the East and Manitoba in the West, while Quebec excelled herself in the number and character of her exhibits of cattle. This clearly indicates the possibility and practicability of realizing the Premier's suggestion that the Toronto Industrial should, owing to its central location, assume more than ever the character of a Dominion exhibition. Our report of the exhibits in the various departments of the show, which follows, has been carefully prepared by practical experts in each, and will be found the most complete account published.

HORSES.

The horse show alone at the Toronto Industrial is a large and worthy concern, equalling many of the special horse shows in quality, and far exceeding them in magnitude, taking in, as it does, many breeding and young horses not found in the modern horse show. The improving condition of the horse trade is telling on the exhibits, inasmuch as this year more well-fitted, superior stock was forward than ever before. There was an encouraging increase of entries, there being in all considerably over 900, as against 875 in 1900. The light-legged classes were much the same, as a whole, as in previous years, and except in Thoroughbreds were quite up to the best ever shown at Toronto. Probably the greatest improvement of all was seen in the Clydesdales, in which there were sections the like of which has never before been seen in a Canadian show-ring. The horse committee deserve commendation for their management of the system for getting the horses out. It was so arranged that the ring was kept well filled with interesting classes at the times of day when most spectators were in the covered stand. The system of calling out horses was also good and promptly looked after, and it was entirely the fault of men in charge of horses if they came out much ahead of time or too late to be judged; in fact, a man could not miss his class if he wished to show and attended to his business.

THOROUGHBREDS.—Since this breed has been so strongly recommended to place our light-legged horses on a good remount footing, it was hoped there would be a better exhibit this year than usual, especially among stallions. This was hoped when the Spring Horse Show brought forward a much stronger display than ever before, including a number of Irish stallions selected by Major Dent as suitable to sire remounts, but visitors were doomed to disappointment, since by far the poorest lot in years came forward. We have grown accustomed to look for exhibits from the breeding studs of R. Davies and Wm. Hendrie, but none of these came, and the exhibit was low; in fact, apart from the mature stallions and one or two young things, the eighteen entries had not much to recommend them. In the aged stallion section an entry from Portage la Prairie, Man., Dermot, by Master Kildair, owned by Wm. Fleming, had no opposition. This horse, for years a winner at Winnipeg Industrial and Brandon Western, is a first-rate specimen of the useful, deep-chested, strong-quartered and well-coupled sort. He was good enough to stand reserve for sweepstakes, won by Woodburn, by King Alphonso, and shown by Quinn Bros., Brampton, among stallions calculated to produce hunters and saddle horses. Against him was shown S. B. Fuller's Wyndham and W. Barber's Biletto, two excellent