

have made a recent visit to Bow Park, where for numbers, quality, size and symmetry, the animals composing this herd will certainly equal anything in the line of Shorthorns to be found in the world. If the Shorthorns of former days were superior, then the artists of those times have deceived us.

The normal strength of the Bow Park Shorthorns is from 200 to 250 animals of all ages. One of its features is the almost entire absence of culls, another is the fine development of all the animals in it, both young and old. There are no "pony built" animals at Bow Park. A third feature is the admirable development and the symmetry of the bulls; a fourth is the extraordinary size of most of the calves; a fifth is the purity of several of the line-bred families, as the Duchesses and the Oxfords; a sixth is the orthodoxy of the colors, mostly a rich roan or red; and a seventh is the fine pedigrees belonging to every animal in the herd.

Amongst the stock bulls now in use we may mention the Duke of Leicester 7th (80196) imp., a smooth red of beautiful outline, and with a straight Duchess pedigree; Baron Waterloo, bred at Bow Park; Ingram's Chief (51423) 81433. The last is by Sir Arthur Ingram, a noted Royal Society winner in England, and he is proving himself a very successful sire. Baron Waterloo, now two years old, is virtually the sweepstakes bull of America, having at Detroit been put ahead of Cupbearer, who won over all breeds at Buffalo. Cupbearer is also a stock bull now at Bow Park.

Appearances generally at Bow Park indicate vigorous and thorough management. Everything is in order. The stock look well from beginning to end. No apologies are made for things being out of order, for the simple reason that none is required. It is without doubt one of the finest stock establishments to be found in any country.

#### THE SHORTHORNS OF THOMAS RUSSELL.

The herd of Mr. Russell at Exeter is not large but very select, and possessing high average individual excellence. The stock bull Riverside Hill, two years old, is a strong roan, with a large amount of growth. He is by the sire imp. Mariner, and out of the dam Bracelet and imported. A one-year bull, by Mariner and the dam Jane Gray, possesses much excellence. There is also a very promising bull calf at Riverside, which it is hoped will do a lot of good some day at the head of some man's herd. Tempting offers have carried away some choice animals from this herd, which accounts in part for its comparatively reduced numbers.

One item of Mr. Russell's management arrested my attention, and is well worthy the consideration of cattle breeders, that is, he is very chary about pushing young heifers ahead during the first year, which are intended for breeding purposes. I do not mean that he does not keep them growing thriftily, but he refrains from making them overfat, which seems to have the effect of checking full development. Mr. Russell is careful not to harbor around him any rubbish along with a few good things as is the manner of some.

#### THE SHORTHORNS OF THE MESSRS. NICHOLSON.

The herd of Shorthorns owned by the Messrs. R. & S. Nicholson, of Sylvan, Ont., is about 40 strong. The stock bull, imp. Warrior, is an immense fellow of a good deal of smoothness, and possessing great development, more especially in those prime essentials of a breeding animal, depth and thickness. He is continuing the good evening up work in the herd, so well begun by Prince Albert - 2057—, a son of Barmpton Hero. The two heifers, Vacuna 13th and Dagmar 8th, now two years old, white and roan respectively, are in fine shape. Both are soon to calve.

Some of the young things in the herd now coming on will doubtless find a place at our leading shows like so many of their predecessors have done during recent years.

The Messrs. Nicholson have done a good work for the section in which they live. They have been breeding Shorthorns now for about fifteen years, and the bulls sold from the herd in that neighborhood have effected a good deal of improvement in quarters where it was considerably needed.

#### THE SHORTHORNS OF JAMES S. SMITH & SON.

The herd of the Messrs. James S. Smith & Son, of Maple Lodge, is a very even one, containing as it does a good lot of animals in fine breeding condition. The resemblance they bear to one another, particularly the younger animals, indicates careful breeding. Some of the animals of this herd, which numbers about 40 head, are noted for their good milking qualities. The foundation, like that of nearly all the Shorthorn herds in Canada, is purely Bates, but Scotch bulls are now in use.

The stock bull, Conqueror, is exceptionally good. He was bred by Mr. John Dryden, M.P.P., Brooklin. He is of the Cressida family, by imp. Vensgarth (47192), and is pure Cruikshank in pedigree back through several generations. Conqueror is low, level, thick, mellow fleshed, and full of quality.

For many years the Messrs. Smith have raised a number of their pure-bred calves on skim milk, and with a success so complete that in the autumn it could not be told from appearance which had been reared on new and which on skim milk. Of this I have been more than once an eye-witness.

Relatively this is a vital question of much importance to the farmers of this country. If calves can be reared as well, or nearly so, on skim milk as on new, it is of much moment that this be done, for at present prices there can be no question but that it costs more to rear them on new milk than on what is skimmed.

The Leicester sheep of this farm are very excellent. One of the very best rams in the country is in service. He was bred by W. Whitlaw, Guelph, and is of Polworth ancestry.

### Our Manitoba Budget.

(From our own Correspondent).

The weather up to about the middle of the month kept very pleasant and open, having only once gone below zero. When a cold spell does occur early in the season, the run of fine weather for weeks afterwards fully makes up for it. Plowing went on pretty late and there is a large area ready for the seeder, larger perhaps than ever before. Even the men who have had to withstand the damage from drouth are as resolute as ever. One who on land that, so far as his explanation goes, was fairly farmed, had not got his seed back, assures me that he has over 300 acres ready for next spring, though he does not know where the seed is to come from. Some of your eastern men come up here and kindly advise us through an eastern city paper after they get back that bad farming is very much to blame. Bad farming and worse seed are, they say, the main causes of any shortage they have found. One Agricultural Society here, that of Souris River, met lately and passed resolutions, dictated by a very excusable indignation, that such statements are unjust and to a large extent unfounded. I find men known to me as among the best and most successful farmers with a poorer return this year from their best worked lands than I have often seen after repeated grain crops. Both here and on the other side of the line are too many cases of good land, good work, and good seed,

followed by miserable returns. Those scorching south-west winds that have been so prevalent this season have fairly wilted everything exposed to their full sweep, and all the good crops I have yet seen were found on land where bush exists in such quantity as to give a degree of protection. We have had in the growing months from 3 to 6 inches of rain, and the greater quantity usually where there is least grain to save. This amount of rain would easily mature a good crop of grain, provided there was any sap in the earth to start with; but when the dust was flying off in clouds at seed-time, and all the subsoil dry, grain had not the ghost of a chance. I fear that, taking bad and good, my early estimate of 10 bushels to the acre may prove too high.

In reference to this bad farming and bad seed business, let me explain what I saw in 1888, to some extent here, but much more so in Dakota. A very cold and dry spring was followed by a warm, wet June and almost tropical rush of growth. Then came a frosty night and more heat after it. All the rich, well-farmed land, especially in the valleys, got frosted, while the poor land and stubble-plowing made a very tidy crop of excellent wheat. I knew thousands of acres of choice wheat burnt where it stood, while the poorer stuff, all through it, was safe. The frost crawled down into the valleys and killed the rankest growth, but the meaner crop was little or nothing the worse. The men who have no knowledge of such facts may talk glibly enough, but no unvarying rule can be laid down here that can be worked for every season. So the Manitoba Farmers' Club decided the other night, and I say "ditto."

The next point is frosted seed. I would not advise any man, except under the pressure of necessity, to sow it anywhere else but here, and not always even here. But I will undertake to go out any place where frosted seed has been sown, here or in Dakota, and get five men to say that they have done well year after year, whenever forced by necessity to sow it, for three that will talk the other way. I don't speak only of the sort of seed that has got wrinkled a little and would be cut down in price five cents a bushel by a grain-buyer. I have by me at this moment seed—and forward by post a small sample—that might be worth thirty cents or less as pig seed, with the product inside as raised this year on the farm of R. D. Foley, south of Manitou, on stubble-plowing, the worst sort of land for this season, and giving a yield superior in quantity to anything sown with first-rate seed on the same kind of land. His next neighbor, Mr. Robson, sowed the same seed this year also against a first-rate sample of 1887 seed, and could not tell the difference on the field or afterwards. This seed, as tested at Ottawa last spring, made a very poor record, which you will not dispute after looking at it. I sent a sack of it to the Experimental Farm at Brandon to be tested, pound for pound, against 1 extra sown alongside under precisely the same conditions. It was the same all the season, as plenty of visitors could see for themselves, but the test was spoiled by the two lots being mixed up after threshing by a man who could not see any difference. Mr. Elder, of Virden, one of the most successful and level-headed farmers in Western Manitoba, writes me to-day saying that he tried 1 hard and 2 frozen side by side, on both summer-fallow and stubble plowing, "with a fair crop on both and no living man could tell the difference in either case." There are cases this year where such seed is blamed for the shortage of crop, but when sifted it is found that other causes are quite as much to blame, though on very dry land in spring I would admit that sick seed would wilt first. This seed is really not diseased; the germ is comparatively little injured in