

for the winter. Others are doing their best to do a little rooting in the baked ground, no doubt in the hope of getting a place to wallow in. Vain hope! Just look at the little fellow scratching himself against the end of the trough. He positively looks to be smiling, and the tone of his grunting tells clearly that he agrees with Josh Billings, who said: "The discomfort of itching is more than half made up by the pleasure of scratching." Taken altogether, these little pigs make as interesting and pretty a picture as the farm affords. And looking at them from a practical point of view, is there anything about the place that will better repay feeding and attention, with pork at the present price? But don't let us think of that. It is too tragic to think of these happy little fellows being turned into Wiltshire bacon. Let them enjoy the swill and sunshine and other good things of life while they may. It would not be such a bad thing if some of the rest of us could do the same.

Our Scottish Letter.

September is a great month for sales of stock of all kinds, and the month this year has been as full of interest in this respect as any September in our experience. Horses, cattle, sheep and pigs have all come under the hammer in large numbers, and the results have invariably shown that the best are always the best, and pay best.

On the last day of August, the famous stud of Clydesdales at Blackhall, Paisley, owned by the late David Riddell, was dispersed. The day was wet and disagreeable to a degree, and the sale was disappointing. Many of the animals were withdrawn, but the forty-seven head sold made an average of £44 7s. 4d. each.

The Perth autumn sale of pedigree Clydesdales took place in the second week of September. It was a brilliant event. A foal by Dunure Footprint made 200 gs. (that is, \$1,050), and nineteen head of brood mares, fillies and foals from the Nether Bogside stud, Elgin, made £108 7s. 6d.—a first-rate average. Seventy-two head of all ages and both sexes made an average of £69 11s. 3d. The Canadian demand has been helping things wonderfully. The shipments of this year have been quite up to those of last year, and this week another heavy lot sail by the fine steamer *Ilesperian*, of the Allan line.

We have also been selling Hackneys and ponies. It is a sign of the times that Sir Gilbert Greenall, Bart., one of the most ardent horsemen of the day, has dispersed his Hackney studs. The sale took place September 29th, and attracted widespread attention. Sir Gilbert did not sell his favorite stud horses, Goldfinder VI. (1791), which cost him £3,000, and has been a most profitable investment; and the champion pony stallion, Sir Horace, possibly the most beautiful pony ever foaled. The former he gifted to Joseph Morton, Stow, Pounham Market, and the latter to J. Ernest Kerr, Harviestown, Dollar, Scotland. We have now in Scotland the two greatest pony sires the world has ever seen, Sir Horace and Fireboy, and we have also the greatest sire of harness horses ever known, Mathias. A daughter of his made the highest price, 240 gs., at Sir Gilbert Greenall's sale. This filly is named Terrington Bountiful. Her buyer is the noted breeder of Hackneys and Shorthorns, A. W. Hickling, Adbolton, Nottingham. What the end of the horse trade is to be, no one can forecast. But it seems tolerably certain that the day for making money out of harness horses is at an end. We have also had a great sale of Shetland ponies at Leuchars, in Fifeshire. R. W. R. Mackenzie, of Earlsall, is an enthusiast for the little creatures, and has organized an autumn sale at his own place, at which all the leading Shetland pony breeders dispose of their stock. This year they had a fine sale. One hundred and sixteen Shetland ponies were sold at an average price of £17 13s. 9d. Two figures of £52 10s. and £52 11s. were paid for stallions, and everything in the least like showing a little profit was eagerly bought. Whatever may happen to Hackneys, it seems a safe thing that Shetland ponies will be wanted for many days to come.

Cattle have had their innings, also, especially the two great beef breeds, Shorthorns and Aberdeen-Angus. The Argentine trade in Shorthorns has suffered an eclipse. The average price paid by an American shipper's lot sold in Buenos Aires recently, was £108. This would never pay the cost and expenses incurred before the sale could well be in sight. At home, in spite of the absence of exporters' bids, we have done not so badly, although the great Aberdeenshire sales are not due for a week yet. The Minmore herd of Shorthorns, owned by the representatives of the late Colonel Smith-Grant, of Auchorachan, was dispersed early in the month, and 93 head made the excellent average of £35 9s. 4d. His Majesty the King gave 200 gs. for a heifer, and other females made 170 gs., 140 gs., 125 gs., and

so on. These prices and the overhead average show plainly enough that Shorthorn breeding pays. The noted Edengrove herd, owned by William Graham, near to Penrith, was dispersed. It was largely composed of what used to be known as Booth blood, and that does not now help a sale. The average price for eighty head in this case was £26 3s. 0d. This was profitable enough, but the day was when Booth cattle made prices far in excess of these.

Aberdeen cattle have been selling fairly well. There are rumors of a boom in these blackskins from the Argentine, and there can be no doubt that sooner or later, as they breed for the butcher, the A.-A. breed will be sought after by the estancieros. Some draft sales have taken place in the north. At the Banks sale, near to Strichen, Aberdeenshire, 34 head made an average of £29 6s. 2d., and 18 head from the Breechlay herd made £21 2s. 11d. To the regret of all his friends and neighbors, Patrick Chalmers, of Aldbar, Buchan, has been compelled to dispose of his entire herd. It is one of the oldest and best in the County of Angus, and, although the stock have not, in recent years, at least, been at all pampered or overfed, they have always been in favor with breeders as a race distinct and full of the best of blood. The seventy-six head submitted to the hammer made the useful average of £27 4s. 3d. One of the best of the most recently-formed herds is that of Wylie Hill, at Balthayock, in the Carse of Gowrie. Mr. Hill has made up his mind to relinquish the blackskins and go in for Shorthorns. He sold off the entire herd of 39 head, at an average figure of £37 14s. 8d. So far, this is the best Aberdeen-Angus sale of the season. Now that we have got rid of the most recent outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease, there is likely to be an improved demand. The Irish and Canadian ports are now open to us, and we will soon forge ahead—and slow and steady will win in this battle.

Sheep have relatively been selling dearer than either cattle or horses. The great autumn ram sales are all held in September, and in Scotland the highest individual prices stand to the credit of the native Blackface mountain breed, with the long wool and bold horns. The top figure is £180, paid at Lanark for a shearling ram bred by Thomas Scott, Bogside, Carlisle. The purchaser was James Clark, Crossflatt, Muirkirk, himself the breeder of very high-class sheep. This £180 Bogside sheep is regarded as the sheep of the year. He is a very bold, handsome animal, with a specially strong head. The highest average for Blackfaces stands to the credit of Mr. Howatson, of Glenbuck. He had £46 9s. 1d. for eleven, and the five best made an average of £80.

The famous white-faced breed, known as the Border Leicester, finds its headquarters at Kelso, in the lovely border country, but the breeding of

this invaluable sheep is now general all over Scotland, and some of the best flocks are to be found in Angus. The top price made for a Border-Leicester is £160, and the next highest £155, and both are from the noted Sandyknowe flock of the Messrs. Templeton. Sandyknowe is a farm in the Mertoun estate of Lord Polwarth. The flock is now the leading one in Scotland, and the high average of £29 9s. 7d. stands to its credit for 25 head. The Border Leicester is the Shorthorn of the sheep world. He is invaluable for crossing and improving stocks. Two flocks have recently been dispersed, that of Sir John Stirling Maxwell, Bart., at Pollok, Renfrewshire, and that of J. R. C. Smith, at Galalaw, near to Kelso. The former was sold in the Lanark auction market, and 140 head of varied ages and both sexes made an average of £4 0s. 2d. The sale was rapid. The best of blood was found in it, and buyers were keen to obtain a glimmer from out of the lot. The Galalaw dispersion consisted of fully double the number of sheep mentioned above. Three hundred and fifty-six head made an average of £8 9s. 11d. The feature of the sale was the character of the produce by the stud ram His Majesty. He was purchased when a shearling by Mr. Smith for £170. He was sold on Friday last for £140, a marvellous price for a four-shear ram. A ram lamb by him went to £85, and a ewe with a fine reputation made £30. She had produced lambs in two years which made £192 to her owner. She is sure to prove a great investment if she be properly mated.

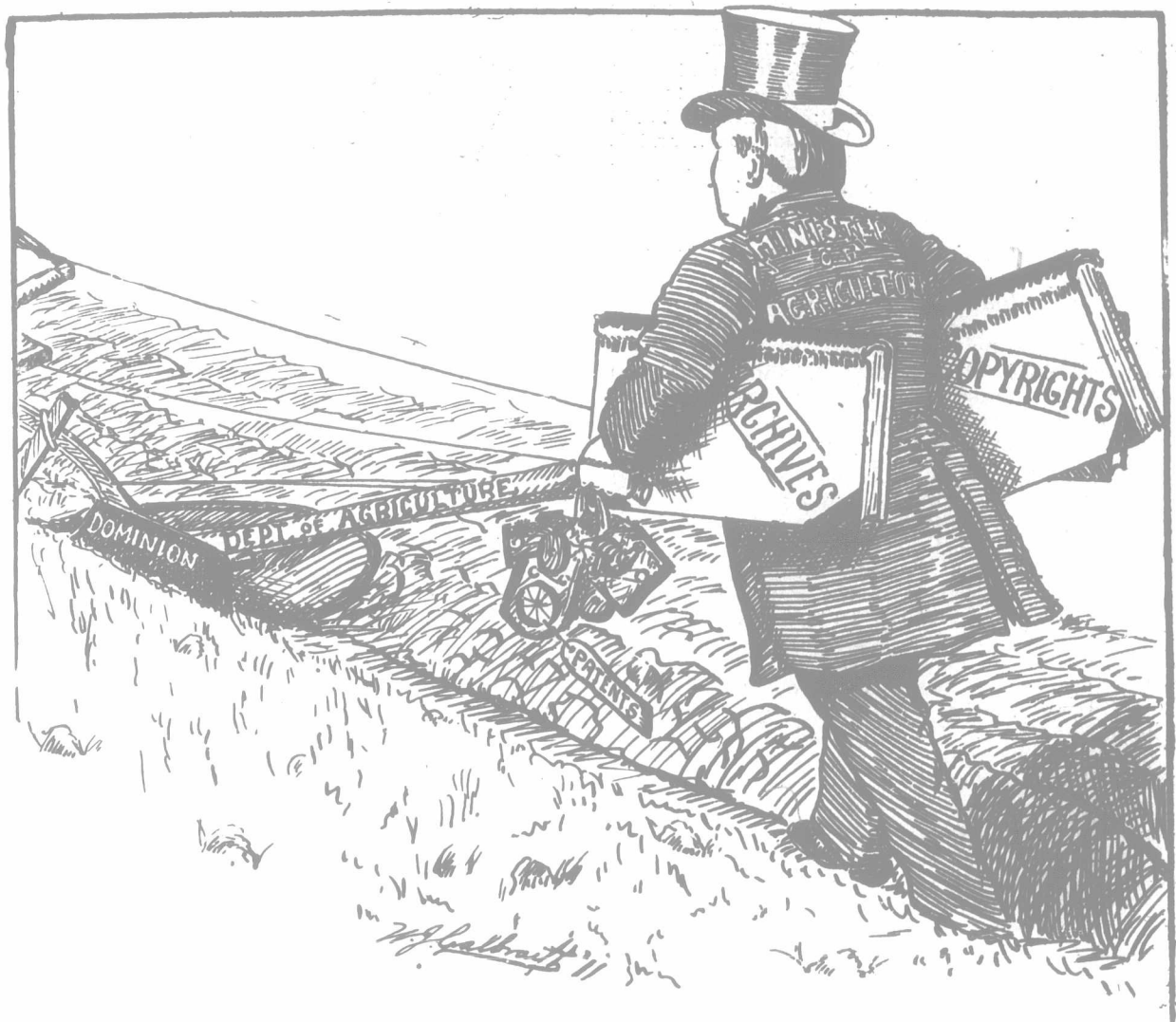
Cheviots cannot make the prices paid for Blackfaces and Border Leicesters. Hawick, on Teviot, is their great center. The highest price made for a two-shear this year was £54. This was shown by Mr. Elliot, Attonburn, and his new buyer will find him all he wants. In Sunderland-shire, in the far north, a Cheviot ram has been sold for 51 gs. He goes to the famous Hindhope flock, which made the highest average at the Hawick sale, viz., £16, 13s. 4d., for 29 head. Altogether, the native ram breeders have had a good time.

Shropshires are bred by Tom Buttar, at Corston, Coupar Angus. He had a home sale on the last Wednesday of August, and sold 48 rams at £8 13s. 8d. of an average. This pays, but there might be a greater demand for Shropshires than there is.

"SCOTLAND YET."

United States Crop Report.

The Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Statistics of the United States Department of Agriculture have sent out their preliminary report, which has been made up from the reports of the various correspondents and agents of the Bureau throughout the country. The quality of many of the staple crops is reported somewhat



Laboring Under Difficulties.

Better work might be looked for if individual attention could be given to the plow.