

against him by his color, he will be found a hard horse to beat, either in his class or for higher honors. Among the mares, we will only notice a few of the younger ones, beginning with Lucy Douglas, foaled in 1887, imported 1888; sire, Douglas Chief (2603); 1st dam, Lucy Bogside (4449). This is a broad, low-set filly of good quality throughout; her sire and dam are both descendants of the Prince of Wales (673). Fair Mellie (450) is Canadian bred, got by What's-the-Odds (301); 1st dam, Fair Helen (218). This is a very good filly, with a good pedigree; she is, perhaps, the best young mare in their stables. From lack of space, we have specially mentioned only a few of their Clydesdales.

The Messrs. Sorby have a lot of very good horses and mares now on hand. Their sales during the past year have numbered seventeen head. S. L. Head, Mayor of Rapid City, Manitoba, bought ten mares and one stallion, viz., Sir Michael (269), foaled July, 1886; sire, Farmer Lyon (302); dam, Fair Helen (218). This colt is as good in all particulars as his sire, but will be a larger horse; he ought to leave his mark where he has gone. The mares chosen to go with him were a very good lot, and have won many prizes on both sides of the ocean.

Mr. John Davidson, Ashburn, Ont., bought one yearling and one two-year-old stallion from these stables; each of these horses won first in their respective classes, also the American silver medals for best yearling and best two-year-old stallion bred in Canada, and the yearling won the sweepstakes as best Canadian Clydesdale stallion any age.

Southdown Sheep Record.

BY JOHN JACKSON, ABINGDON.

Knowing you have long and faithfully advocated the interests of farmers and breeders, I would respectfully solicit your co-operation with your readers interested in Southdown sheep, both in Canada and the United States, through the medium of your widely circulated paper, to assist in bringing about a more satisfactory means of keeping a proper and reliable record of pure bred Southdown sheep. In regard to the necessity of such record to breed intelligibly there is no room for argument, and while I am not in favor of a multiplicity of records, as many of your readers are already aware, yet to submit to the grasping hand of oppression—rings and combines—I am equally opposed, and now call the attention of every breeder interested in the improvement and advancement of this old reliable and well defined breed of sheep to give the subject careful consideration. By way of illustration, we will first notice the contrast between the broad and liberal way in which the American Shropshire Association has dealt with its members and patrons as compared with the narrow-gauge, circumscribed line which the American Southdown Association has laid down to run on.

The Shropshire Association charge a fee of from 50 cents to \$1 for recording, and have again extended the time (giving due notice) for registering flocks of pure bred sheep, not previously recorded, to first of April, 1889, thus showing a willingness to deal out justice liberally to importers and breeders in both countries, the result of which is general satisfaction. A prosperous and growing association, with a surplus of over \$1700 in the treasury, a large amount of which they have decided to offer in premiums at Chicago and Toronto to encourage the improve-

ment and popularity of the breed, instead of aiming to realize large dividends on the capital stock of the association, for the special benefit of a few stockholders.

Now, on the other hand, how different the course pursued by the American Southdown Association. From the time it was organized in 1882, up to 1888, the fee for recording to members and non-members was \$1 for each sheep, which was fairly satisfactory. But in 1888, and without due notice to many of the importers, breeders and patrons, the fee was raised to \$5 for each imported animal, and \$2 for American bred animals, except to members of the association; American bred animals are recorded for \$1 (the fee for membership is \$10). Now, the \$2 fee discourages beginners and small breeders, the fee of \$5 on imported animals simply means collecting a duty or tariff of \$4 per head, paid by the importer into the coffers of the association for the direct benefit of the few members thereof.

I have been advised and pressed by a large number of importers and breeders in this country, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, etc., who have unanimously condemned the action of the American Association in regard to the fee now imposed. They have urged with no uncertain sound the expediency of forming an association on liberal principles, such as will commend itself to the public, and one that will be taken as authority on this favorite breed of sheep, that has stood the test of time and more than held its own. An American friend suggests the name "International Southdown Association," I feel inclined to favor this as quite appropriate. Meetings could be arranged to discuss matters of interest to the association during the holding of the International Fair at Buffalo, the Industrial at Toronto, or such other place as the association might appoint from time to time for convenience of members. There is a large number of imported Southdowns in this country and in the United States, of the very best blood and individual merit that the world can produce, a number of them being first prize winners at the Royal Show of England and other important shows, but they are not yet recorded, nor are they likely to be at the unreasonable fee of \$5 therefor. It seems to me the time has fully come for all the breeders of Southdowns to unite in what will be for the good of all interested in the welfare of this noble breed of sheep. Let the owners of the hundreds of imported animals not yet recorded be heard from through the press or by private correspondence, which I shall be pleased to reply to at any time, and hope to see a meeting arranged for in the near future to give the matter deliberate and serious consideration.

The Spring Stallion Show.

The third annual show of the Clydesdale Association, which is to be held in Toronto on the 14th of March, bids fair to be the finest stallion show ever held in the Dominion. We believe there are more good Clydesdale stallions in Ontario to-day than ever before, and a good many are being prepared for the coming show. There are to be classes for imported and Canadian bred horses. The imported horses will make a big show, and it is to be hoped the Canadian bred horses will do the same, they certainly ought to be present since they now have a separate class. Doubtless Americans who want to buy stallions will be present as they have been in previous years. Those who exhibit will be likely to meet customers.

A Sheep Breeders' Association for Ontario.

We have received a great many letters from the breeders of the various breeds of sheep regarding the formation of an Ontario Sheep Breeders' Association, nearly all are in favor of such a project. Mr. E. R. Morgan, of Oshawa, Ont., who is a very extensive shipper, says:—"Such an association has long been needed, and should receive the hearty support of both breeders, wool dealers and shippers." He pledged himself to support such association. Several other dealers have done the same. The object of the association should be to encourage the interest and improvement in the breeding and management of sheep, by the dissemination of reliable and practical information on the subject; also to co-operate with the officers of the various fair boards in making large and attractive shows of sheep; also to present to the fair boards the names of such men as are competent to act as judges of the various breeds of sheep, and in every other way to forward the interests of the sheep breeders. At the first of such meetings the advisability of founding Canadian records should be discussed. If the breeders of any breed determine to commence a record they have the right to do so. Our opinion on the subject is that we should, as far as possible, unite with our American purchasers in supporting one record for one breed, but where the Americans insist on running it all their own way, or in an unjust manner, as described by Mr. Jackson in his able letter, then we would be in favor of founding another record, and in making that record as international as possible. One record for each breed found in America is all that is required, but such record must be for both countries, not for Americans only. A multiplicity of records is not to be desired; every additional record means an additional tax on the breeders, who deserve all the protection and encouragement they can get. In all classes the records should be controlled by the breeders, not the breeders controlled by the record. The American Shropshire Association have endeavored to make their record serviceable to all of North America, and whenever asked, have made such concessions as we on this side of the line deemed advisable, but some of the other associations have not done so, and should be compelled to give us fair play or else Canadian breeders will start records in Canada that will better suit the wants of both Canadian and American breeders. Several of the American States have Wool Growers' Associations, chief among them is the Indiana Wool Growers' Association, which has done a very good work. In 1876 it commenced with a membership of thirteen, in 1880 its membership had increased to about seventy active members, and has continued to increase since that date. The Hon. Jasper Davidson, President of the Indiana State Board of Agriculture, recently wrote us that their Wool Growers' Association had been a great help to the sheep industry in the State. The fourteenth annual meeting of this association was held at Indianapolis, Wednesday, January 23rd, where, after the President's address, papers were read on the following subjects:—What is the most profitable type of sheep for our farmers to breed? How shall we manage to get early lambs? Sheep husbandry and its relations to our wants. What should be the qualifications for an expert judge on sheep? Value of