

noted Scottish agriculturist in the person of W. S. Ferguson, Pictstonhill, Perth. His Aberdeen-Angus herd was dispersed lately and 63 head averaged £25 17s. 6d.

The Ram sales held in September were marked by great buoyancy of tone. As a rule averages showed an advance and trade generally was spirited and brisk. The top price made for a Blackface ram this year was £180, the top price for a Border Leicester was £250, and the top price for a Cheviot was £225. Blackface rams have in a few cases in the past made higher than £180, and Border Leicesters have gone higher than £250, but £225 is a record price for a Cheviot ram. The previous highest price for a ram of that breed was £194 5s. paid in 1867 by the late John Miller, of Scrabster, for one of the group bred by James Bryden, Moodlaw, a famous breeder in his time. The record is now held by a lady, Miss Grieve, of Skelhill, Hawick, the representative of a very old race of flockmasters in the Cheviots. Miss Grieve's offering at the Hawick sale was 18 two-year-olds and their average price was £21 16s. The best average for Cheviots was made by John Robson, Millknowe, Duns, a great flockmaster, who sold 20 at an average of £26 9s., one of them making £100. Mr. Robson was the breeder of Humble, a magnificent Cheviot ram, the sire of the £225 Skelhill sheep, which, by the way, was bought by John Elliot, Jr., Blackhaugh, Galashiels.

Kelso is the great centre for the sale of Border Leicesters, but other breeds, especially Oxford Downs, are now represented there in greater numbers. The scene in the Kelso ram sale field is of a singularly animated character, trade proceeding simultaneously in ten rings. This year several novel features were witnessed. The highest price, £250, was made by one of the most recently formed flocks of the breed, that of D. P. Elliot, Nisbethill, Duns. He sold 25 at an average of £41 15s. 2d., surely a great result. Last year Mr. Elliot's average was £14 some shillings. The difference is largely due to the use of one stud ram, His Royal Highness, a great sheep, and the son of a still greater sire, His Majesty, without doubt the best sire in the Border Leicester breed during the past 20 years. The second highest average for Border Leicesters was made by Andrew M. Montgomery, of Netherhall, Castle Douglas, who sent forward five, one of which made £60 and the average price of the five was £33 4s., a very good result for a first attempt at Kelso. The Messrs. Wallace, Auchinbrain, Ayrshire, who are well known to Canadians as owners of a great herd of Ayrshire cattle, also excel as breeders of Border Leicester sheep. They sold ten rams at Kelso, making an average of £30 12s., and one of their lot made £160. He was regarded by not a few experts as the best Border Leicester ram at Kelso. His purchaser was John Wallace, Hay Close, Calthwaite, Carlisle. A Border Leicester tup lamb at Lanark made £49.

Blackfaces are the most important of all the Scottish breeds. I mean by that that they are more extensively owned than any of the other breeds. The score this year both for a single price, for a group price, and for an overhead average, was made by the famous Crossflatt flock in the Muirkirk District of Ayrshire, now in the hands of James Clark. His highest price for a single ram was £180, the buyer being John Willison, Parish-holm, Douglas, Lanarkshire, who represents one of the oldest families of flockmasters in the West country. Mr. Clark's average price for his first-prize pen of five shearlings at Lanark was £86 4s., and his overhead average for eleven, £46. Charles Cadzow, Borland, Biggar, a Lanarkshire flockmaster, came next. He had an average of £42 for 13, and one of his lot made £160. The ordinary commercial sheep of the country have also been making very high prices, and it is admitted on all hands that flockmasters have been making plenty of money this year. One gentleman of very wide experience told me not long ago that on a certain farm in Western Argyllshire, the rent of which is £120 per annum, the profit this year would be not less than £550. I am not disposed to agree that net profit to this amount could be made, but undoubtedly high profits are the order of the day among flockmasters.

It is, however, when we turn to Clydesdale horses that something sensational in the way of prices is to be recorded. The lamented death of Robert Brydon, Seaham, Harbour, which took place in the beginning of July, necessitated the dispersion of the world-famed Seaham Harbour Clydesdale stud. This was the largest breeding stud of Clydesdales in Great Britain, and on Thursday last the entire stock were brought to the hammer. The sale took place at Seaham Harbour in the County of Durham, and attracted an enormous crowd from all parts of the British Isles. The number of Clydesdales put through the ring was exactly 100, and these included animals of all ages and both sexes, together with one four-year-old gelding which made £105. The average price of the one hundred Clydesdales was £211 17s. 10d., the sale realizing for Clydesdales alone £21,185 18s. The famous Cawdor Cup

winner, Bonnie Buchlyvie 14032, which never took anything but a first prize in the great show-yards of England and Scotland, made according to the sale returns £5,250, his buyer being James Kilpatrick, Craigie Mains, Kilmarnock. The son of this horse, Phillipine, also a first-prize winner at the great shows, made £2,415 to George A. Ferguson, Surradale, Elgin. The heads of the well-known shipowning firm of Donaldson Brothers, Glasgow, were purchasers. Norman P. Donaldson, Lettre, Killarn, bought a beautiful five-year-old mare Silver Bangle at £656 5s. His brother, W. B. Donaldson, Dunkyan, Killarn, bought the fine old mare Syringa at £262 10s. J. Johnston, Carbrook Mains, Larbert, one of the best judges of Clydesdales to-day bought two lovely young mares, Silver Queen at £535 10s., and the three-year-old Queen of the East, at £456 15s. The best of the two-year-old fillies, Saucy Queen, made £682 10s., to James Cairns, Abercrombie, St. Monanee, Fife, and the best of the yearlings, Solace, made £262 10s., her buyer being William Neilson, Haining Valley, Linlithgow. The sale was a magnificent tribute to the life-work of the late Wm. Brydon. As a young man in 1870 he founded the stud for the Marquess of Londonderry, and carried it on ever since without a break in its continuity, but with two changes in ownership, up to the day of his death. The surplus stock was sold annually by public auction, the Seaham Harbour sale being a sure fixture in the Clydesdale calendar. For the past fifteen years or thereby the practical management of the stud has been in the hands of Charles Aitkenhead, who was for many years in charge of the Park Mains stud of the late William Taylor. Mr. Aitkenhead is to carry on one of the farms tenanted by Wm. Brydon, for his own behalf, and has the cordial good wishes of a very

"missed" a ewe. He was treated as outlined each fall. From this flock he went to another and gave good service for three years more and was again sold, and the last we heard of him was still a valuable stud ram. It is not always the ram's fault that ewes do not breed. Very often he is over-worked, he is over-fat or is poorly fed. See to his care now.

### The Value of Past Performances.

I am sometimes amazed at the indifference shown by a great number of stockmen to the breeding or ancestry of certain animals they purchase. True it is, one should first select an individual that is as near right as possible but to disregard its ancestry is outstandingly wrong. I have been amused very much this fall when attending auction sales to hear the auctioneer expatiate on "the splendid backing of this great animal" which was before him, but probably he had not noticed on account of his attention to the catalogue from which he read out long pedigrees that might have been good or bad for aught any of us knew. I do not believe in wagering legal tender that a good character four or five generations back will reappear. I will, however, often bet that a good sire and a good dam mated, will give rise to a pretty good offspring but beyond that I prefer to wait and see. I positively will not bet on a poor sire and dam, no matter how good their parentage was. Auctioneers must be psychologists. If an individual of indifferent merit is offered then they will go back three or four generations to Polly Jane 31st of Helligoland and after expounding on the supreme importance of good backing and

what a great cow Polly Jane 31st really was they will look some interested bidder in the eye who will immediately raise them five. If that is not enough they will go back to Polly Jane 30th which was also an outstanding cow and get another five from the competitive bidder. By the time all the Polly Janes down to the original one are referred to the animal is knocked down to the highest bidder and another one brought in. Cattle like the race of men often deteriorate and I believe the safe and sure way is to purchase animals that are themselves good and are the get of a sire and dam that are right.

I am a great believer in pedigrees and records but they are not everything. This point may well be illustrated by a sow and her get that were owned in this neighborhood. The original sow was a good specimen and well bred but through poor management and care she was injured for breeding purposes. Many of her young were delivered without hair and the majority of them were runts and nothing more. However, one of her sow pigs was kept and it developed into a breeding sow of considerable merit so far as appearances went, but too many of her young were not right so she went to the shambles. Her owner, to give the strain another chance, kept one of her pigs which grew into a fine sow but this fall her young pigs are not doing as they should. Too many of them have a stunted appearance. Thus the injury done to the grandmother sow has not yet been repaired, for her granddaughter this season is proving unsatisfactory as a breeder. Any one of these sows would have sold well for they were typey and of course well-bred, but there was something in the strain that was undesirable from the owner's point of view. They did not produce enough of the good kind. The moral I have seen in this lesson is that appearance and breeding are not all we require to know. We must know something about their performance.

It is no use going back too many generations for this "wonderful backing." Between the remote ancestor and the animal in question there are too many chances for mistakes. A large percentage of the Clydesdale stallions travelling in our county trace back to Baron's Pride, but there has been a mistake somewhere between that champion of Clydesdales and some of the horses we see. We desire to breed to a good stallion that boasts of a good sire and dam. Back of that we will sometimes accept excuses for the plain looking pedigree. Individuality and performance are the two points about live stock that buyers and sellers must consider more seriously.



Silver Queen.

Two-year-old Shorthorn heifer, champion in the West, at Toronto, and at London, for J. A. Watt, Elora, Ont.

wide circle of friends. The winding up of the Seaham Harbour Stud will for many a day be a record event in Clydesdale history.

I deeply regret to learn of the death of my esteemed friend, W. Henderson Bryce, "Scotty" Bryce, of Arcola, Sask. He was a fine specimen of the Canadian Scotsman, and knew a Clydesdale better than most men in Canada.

SCOTLAND YET.

### Look After The Ram.

While the ram is at service in the flock it would pay to take him in each evening and give him extra feed and care. He will do better service at far less strain upon himself, especially if the ewe flock is large. Fewer ewes will be "missed" and stronger lambs will result. When the ewes come to the buildings at night, take the ram from the flock and enclose him away from them for the night. Give him a liberal feed of oats and a mangel or two night and morning if he is not too fat, which is not likely unless he has been fitted for the show-ring. We once knew a very fat ram which had proven impotent to be returned to potent vigor by simply exercising the fat off him. He was compelled to walk back and forth with the ewes each night and morning to a pasture field one mile distant. He lost flesh and improved upon his feet. After he became active and thinner he was taken from the ewes nights and fed his oats and a good sized mangel. The same feed was given in the morning and he was turned out with the ewes. The previous season in a large flock he only got four ewes with lamb. The season of which we speak, in a flock of fifteen ewes every one conceived and they dropped the next spring thirty-one lambs, twenty-six of which were raised. This ram was kept in the growing flock for three years and never