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## GOSSIP.

### MAPLE LODGE SHORTHORNS AND LEICESTERS.

One of the best known and most noted stock farms in Canada is that of Mr. A. W. Smith, Maple Lodge, Ont., situated one mile west of Lucan Crossing station on the London & Wingham branch of the G. T. R., and about 20 miles north of the City of London. From boyhood, Mr. Smith has been intimately connected with the breeding and management of pure-bred stock, particularly of Shorthorn cattle and Leicester sheep, and what he does not know about the peculiarities and points that go to make the perfect animal, both in cattle and sheep, and the modus operandi of fitting and conditioning to show them at their best, is hardly worth knowing, as a look over this herd of 52 head of cattle and flock of 140 head of sheep pasturing on his splendidly-arranged 280-acre farm amply attest. Mr. Smith's herd of Shorthorns is headed by the model bull, Imp. Knuckle Duster—28868—bred by Mr. Bruce, of Inverquhomery, Scotland, sired by Waverley, a bull that was famous on account of the large number of prizewinners he left; dam Augusta 42nd, by Cap-a-Pie, who was also a sire of winners; so that Knuckle Duster is not only descended from prizewinners on both sides, but is a prizewinner himself, winning the only year he was shown, first prize at London as a two-year-old, over the Toronto first-prize winner, and is proving himself a sire of exceptional merit. His lieutenant in service is the richly-bred and beautifully-formed Sir Wilfred (imp.), bred by J. Milne, Aberdeen, Scotland; sired by Scottish Victor, a Cruickshank Victoria bull by Scottish Archer; dam Rosabelle, by Mazurka, a Missie bull, by William of Orange. The females of the herd (imported and home-bred) belong to the Isabella, Miss Syme, Claret, Princess of Thule, Fair Queen, Missie, Jilt, Mysie, Lavinia, Constance, Lovely, Ury, Cecilia, and Lady May families. Prominent among the many good ones is the cow, Lady May 15th (imp.), bred by A. Still, Peterculter; sired by Denmark; by Hendigo, the sire of many winners; dam Lady May 14th, by Mountain Gem, a Missie bull by William of Orange. This cow has just weaned a seven-months-old heifer by Knuckle Duster, that is an extra nice youngster. A close second to her is the cow, Claret's Fancy (imp.), by Gravesend, a Brawith Bud bull; dam Claret 15th. She is now in calf to Knuckle Duster. Another extra good one is Princess V., an Isabella-bred cow, who has a very sweet six-months-old calf by Knuckle Duster. A fourteenth Princess of Thule is a massive, thick roan cow, showing perfect lines above and below; sired by Conqueror, he by Imp. Vensgarth. This cow was in the milk test at Buffalo last summer, and stood third. Another of the heavy milkers is Roan Blanche 2nd, a daughter of Blanche who won the first prize in the dairy test at Guelph in 1900. She has a seven-months-old heifer by Knuckle Duster, that is a good one. Irish Ivy is another Lavinia-bred cow, that won second prize last winter at Guelph dairy test, her milk showing the high average of 4 1/2 per cent. butter-fat. As a two-year-old she gave in 10 months, 10,550 lbs. of milk. She also has an extra nice seven-months-old heifer calf by Knuckle Duster. Lady Newton belongs to the fashionable Missie family. She is sired by Rapid Rhone. She is nursing a three-months-old bull calf by Scottish Chief, that shows a perfect form. Princess Josie, of the well-known Jilt family, a very thick, straight cow, is suckling a six-months-old heifer by Knuckle Duster. Ury Countess is the only cow in the herd that is suckling a calf by Sir Wilfred, and if he is a sample of what this bull is going to leave in the way of form and quality, he will certainly be a bonanza to Mr. Smith. We were shown a number of young bulls and heifers that were a pleasure to look over. Almost without exception, they are a thick, low-set lot, smooth and straight lined, and Mr. Smith informed us that any and every animal in the herd was for sale, as he is not breeding them to look at.

As before intimated, the Leicesters number 140 head, a great many of which are imported. Of the stock rams, Imp. Stanley was winner of first prize at the Royal Northern, Aberdeen, as a lamb. He was bred by that well-known breeder, Mr. D. Hume. The other is Imp. B. 10, also bred by Hume, and won first as a lamb at the Angus Show, Aberdeenshire. Stanley is a full-brother to the gold medal winners at the Highland Agricultural Societies Show in 1899 and 1900; while the sire of B. 10 sold for 210 guineas. Among the breeding ewes are a number of Royal and other winners, and representatives of this flock won the flock prize at Toronto from 1895 to 1901, inclusive. This year they were not shown in Canada, but were shown at Syracuse, N. Y., where they won every first prize and every second but one. Last year, besides winning the flock prize at Toronto, they won it at London, Syracuse, and Buffalo. This year's lambs are all sired by the above-mentioned rams, and a better formed and fleeced, smoother, even lot could scarcely be found. Especially were we struck by the beauty and symmetry of a bunch of ewe lambs. Perfection is the only word that describes them. At the time of our visit, Mr. Smith was crating 26 head for shipment, the bulk of them going to the States. There are still for sale, 10 shearing rams and 30 ram lambs, 20 shearing ewes and a number of ewe lambs.

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## GOSSIP.

For nearly a quarter of a century the firm of R. Ness & Son, Howick, Que., have been extensively engaged in the importation of high-class Clydesdale, Percheron and Hackney horses, Ayrshire cattle, and pure-bred poultry. Lately, Mr. Ness, Sr., has returned from the Old Sod with a choice collection of horses, made up of the following: Clydesdales—Primrose Pride 11138, bred by Robt. Cochrane, Portenallie, Stranraer, Scot. land; sired by the world's famous sire, and the noted Darnley 222. He is a bay, three years old, and won first prize at the late Ottawa Exhibition. Cecil 3352, bred by Lords A & L Cecil, Orchardmains, Tunbridge, Kent, Eng., was sired by Macara 6992, dam Minuet 14165, by Cedric 1087; is also a bay, two years old, an extra choice animal and winner of first prize and sweepstakes at Ottawa. Killarney 11882 was bred by David A. Hood, Balgredan, Kirkcubright, sired by Baron's Pride, dam Nancy Lee 13E55, by Flashwood's best 9211. He is a brown horse, two years old, and won second prize at Ottawa. Proud Baron 11477, bred by Wm. Montgomery, Banks, Kirkcubright, sired by Baron's Pride, dam Jess of Banks 8805, by Young Ross 1370, is

a bay, two years old. Royal Stair 11509, bred by Mrs. Hood, Dormiston, Coynton, Ayrshire, sired by Royal Carrick 10270, dam Missie of Dormiston 14250, and sired by Skelmorlie 4027, is a bay two-year-old, and was the winner of third prize at Ottawa. Baron Lang is a four-year-old, a big, well-balanced brown horse, sired by Sir Everitt, dam Broomfield Lass. These horses were all selected from the most noted studs in England and Scotland, for their superior breeding, conformation, quality, action, bone and feet, and it is safe to say that it is many a day since a better lot of up-to-date Clydesdale stallions were landed on our shores. In Hackneys, Mr. Ness brought only one, but he is a cracker. He is Bally Garton (142) 7348, bred by F. J. Batchelor, Alvechurch, Eng., sired by the noted Garton Duke of Connaught 8109, dam Lady Allington 6837, by the famous Danegelt 174. He is a beautiful black, choke-full of style, quality and action, and carried off first and sweepstakes at Ottawa and first at Toronto this year. Mr. Ness also brought over a splendid Percheron stallion, but the pedigree was not at hand at the time of our visit, so we are not able to give his breeding. These horses are all for sale, and, with their royal breeding and grand individuality, will not stay long at the prices asked.