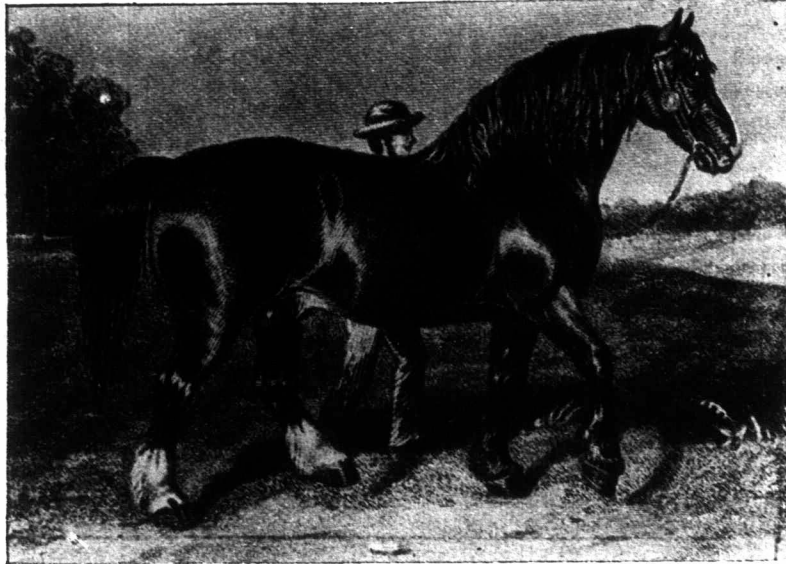


in 1841. He was to have been president of the Royal in 1862, the year of the great International Show at Battersea, but died in the close of the preceding year. He first exhibited stock at the Smithfield Show in 1843, and possibly not a year has passed since in which the Royal herds have been unrepresented at that great fat stock exhibition. The present-day Royal herds, flocks and studs are carried on very much as the Prince Consort instituted them nearly sixty years ago, and this introductory reference is germane to our theme and indeed necessary to a due appreciation of the part which the British Royal family have played in the agricultural development of the past sixty years. The partiality of the Queen for all that is associated with the name of her Royal consort is proverbial, and hence we understand their present condition when we know the beginnings of the Royal farms at Osborne, Windsor, and Balmoral.

Osborne is situated in the Isle of Wight, and the Mansion House was built from designs submitted by the Prince himself in 1845-6. The surrounding farms were taken in hand about the same time and vastly improved at the expenditure of great sums. Sewage experiments were engaged in about 1857, and much accomplished as pioneer work which is now universally practiced in many parts by corporation sewage farms. During the lifetime of the Prince Consort, the stock on the Osborne farms consisted of Clydesdale horses [NOTE.—See portrait of Clydesdale stallion, "Britain."—Editor], Jersey cattle in the dairy, Galloway cattle in the feeding boxes, and Southdown and Dorset Horned sheep. All the farm managers then, and we think still, were and are Scotchmen. Andrew Toward was the man who carried out the great improvements in the Osborne property and farms, and his successor now is J. W. Slater, who went from Peebles only a few years ago. Osborne farms are not so well known to the general public as the Windsor farms, mainly, we suppose, because, being situated in an island, it is less convenient to keep good prize stock there than at Windsor. It is at this latter place that all the leading breeds find a home. There are four farms here: (1) the Home or Dairy farm and the Shaw farm, (2) the Flemish farm, (3) the Norfolk farm, and (4) the Bagshot and Rapley farms. Each of these is identified with a particular kind of stock, and the herds are not mixed. Clydesdales are the horses patronized, and during the lifetime of the Prince Consort, and since, many good horses have been bred and owned by the Queen. In the Retrospective volume of the Clydesdale Stud Book the Royal name occurs more than once. Britain 86, a horse foaled in 1851, was first at the H. and A. S. at Berwick in 1854, and at the Royal at Chelmsford in 1856. In later years Her Majesty won the championship at the Royal (Windsor) in 1889 with First Choice, and at the Royal (Warwick) in 1892 with the Macquhae, which latter, as far as we know, she still owns. The first entry in the last published volume of the Clydesdale Stud Book is that of a mare owned by Her Majesty, and altogether on all her estates the Queen has retained the Clydesdale as the draft horse breed. She joined the Clydesdale Horse Society as a life governor and patroness a few years ago and in every respect has thus maintained a consistent regard for all things Scottish.

The Shaw Farm derives its name from the fact that it was purchased about 230 years ago from a Frenchman, Mons. de Shawe, who had somehow or other come to be its owner. It and the dairy farm are practically one, and the home of the dairy cattle and Shorthorn herds. The dairy farm appointments were completed in 1855, and are remarkably sweet and clean. The premises when finished were ideally complete, and although I dare say others of the same have been erected since, they still remain unsurpassed for sweetness and suitability. The dairymaids three years ago were two Lanarkshire sisters named Stoddart, and for aught we know they are still in command. Until 1858 the farm manager at Windsor was Mr. Wilson. He was succeeded by Mr. Henry Tait, who came from the Duke of Sutherland's farm at Dunrobin, and continued in office until his death a few years ago, when he was succeeded by his son, Mr. William Tait, the present manager. The Shorthorn herd at Windsor has in these last days acquired great fame at the Smithfield show. One of our illustrations represents the champion of the

show of 1895, the red heifer, Frederica, which won first at the Royal in 1893 as a yearling heifer. The highest priced bull of the breed during the past ten or fifteen years was the grand animal, New Year's Gift [see illustration], for which the Earl of Faversham paid 1,000 gs. at the Royal sale a few years ago. This bull was bred by Lord Lovat, and was bought by Mr. Tait for Her Majesty. He was first at the Royal more than once, and gave unqualified satisfaction as a breeding bull. Some years ago a great noise was raised by disappointed exhibitors because the Royal herds were sweeping all before them at the Smithfield shows, and it was alleged that anyone could do the same if they had only the purse to buy up all the good ones, as some alleged Mr. Tait had been doing. This led Mr. Tait to adopt the policy of exhibiting nothing but what



CLYDESDALE STALLION "BRITAIN," FIRST PRIZE WINNER AT THE CHELMSFORD ROYAL OF 1856, OWNED BY THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.

was home-bred, and how successful this has been was clearly manifest at the shows of 1894 and 1895, when the animals bred and exhibited from Windsor almost swept the boards. The Shorthorn herd was founded with good pedigreed cattle, and several of the best were bought at Earl of Ducie's sale of Bates cattle. Booth bulls were in use in its early days. Latterly, however, the Cruickshank type has been all the rage, and the bulls in use have come from the north. It is impossible not to admire the ability with which the Royal herds are managed. Mr. Tait has proved himself a past master of his art, and yet unless the foundation had been good the ablest management would not have accomplished all that has been done. The example of Her Majesty has done very much to make fine stock breeding popular in this country, and many

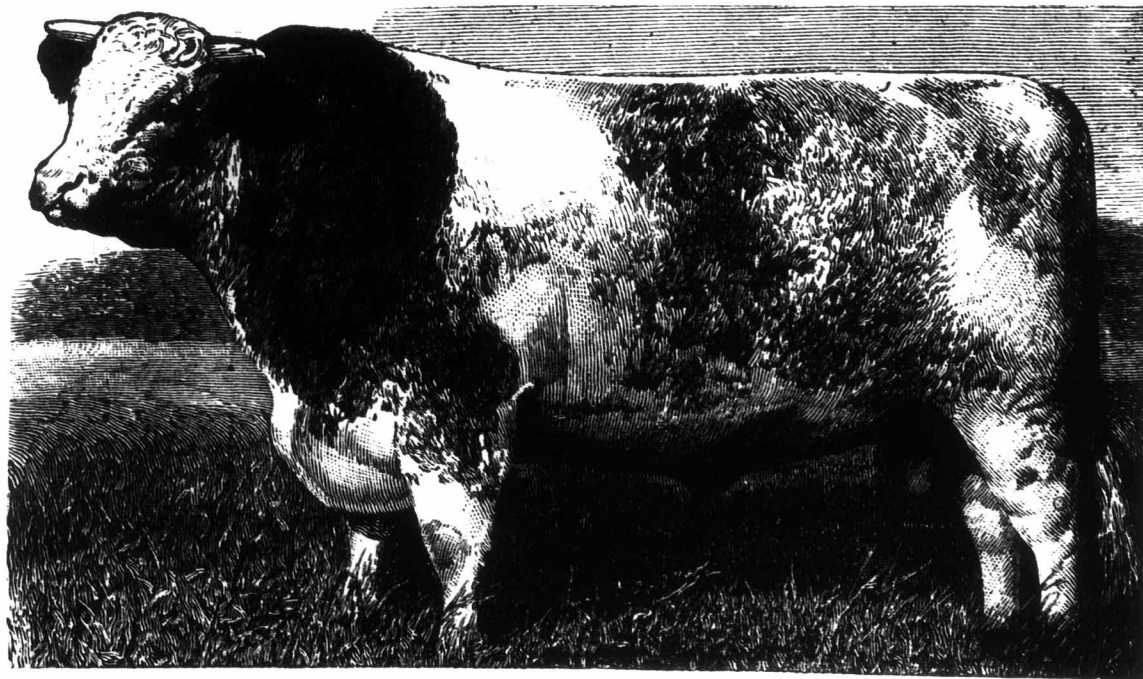
stock sale held during the Smithfield show week great prices are paid by the London butchers for fat lambs of the Hampshire Down cross, reared and fed by Her Majesty.

The Flemish Farm is the home of the celebrated Hereford herd. It has long been a Royal farm, having been held by King George III. in that way, and so called to distinguish it from the Norfolk farm, the one being designed as an experiment in farm management on the Flemish system, and the other as an experiment on the famous Norfolk system of a short rotation. Immense sums were spent by Prince Albert in draining the Flemish farm on the most approved system, and experiments with the steam plow were carried on in one of the fields during the great International Show at Battersea in 1862. The Hereford herd was

founded in 1855 by purchases made at the sale of the Earl of Radnor. The bull Brecon was bought in March, 1856, for £120, and the herd was further recruited by purchasing from the most noted breeders in the country. Possibly quite as much distinction has been obtained by the Herefords as by the Shorthorns. Hardly a year passes in which many prizes do not fall to the Queen at the fat stock shows for Herefords. King Robert, a magnificent ox, was champion at Norwich three years ago, and in 1896 two of the best Herefords seen for many a day were shown from the Royal farm at Smithfield. Altogether the Hereford herd at the Flemish farm holds a very high place amongst herds of the breed in England, and a great future is before it. The Devon herd was founded on the Norfolk farm in 1856, but we rather think it is now located at the Flemish farm also. The Devons are very like the Aberdeen-Angus, only they are not polled and their color is red. The Prince Consort first came to the front with Devons in 1849, and in the following year he entered the lists with Shorthorns. In 1850 he was very successful, and all his exhibits were of his own breeding. The intervening years have wrought no change in this respect, and we could easily fill columns with details of the Royal winnings at the principal shows in England. We must, however, turn to Scotland.

North of the Tweed.—The partiality of the Queen for the land north of the Tweed is so well known that little need be said about it. Possibly Her Majesty overdoes this, and it has been hinted that the Prince of Wales does not share his mother's fondness for the north. Be that as it may, of the Queen's devotion to the tartan there is no doubt whatsoever. In 1847 the Prince Consort purchased the lease of Balmoral estate from its holder, the Earl of Aberdeen, and five years later he secured the fee simple from the House of Fife, which has since become closely related to the Royal house by the marriage of the Duke of Fife to the eldest daughter of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Balmoral is situated in the parish of Crathie, 52 miles W. S. W. from Aberdeen, and contains about 10,000 imperial acres. Subsequently the Royal domains in Braemar were increased by the purchase or lease, in 1849, of the estate of Birkhall, and in the same year of Aberfeldie and Invergelder farm. Her Majesty's Commissioner in Scotland then was Dr. Robertson. He was succeeded by Dr. Profitt, who only died since this year began, and his successor is Mr. Wm. Forbes, from Islay. The chief stock in the north is a herd of Aberdeen-Angus cattle at Aberfeldie Mains. This is of comparatively recent foundation, but much success has attended its exhibits at the principal shows. The photo-engraving of Gentian of Ballindalloch 19258, given herewith, shows one of the best of these. She won 1st and the Duke of York's medal at the H. & A. S., Aberdeen, in 1894, as a two-year-old, and was again well in the battle, being first in the cow class, in 1896. She is one of the best animals of the breed at the present day. The herd here has not yet had time to take root like the Royal herds of Shorthorns, Herefords and Devons in the south, but sufficient has been done to warrant the hope that it will prove quite as successful and profitable as these have been. The Prince Consort never visited a Highland showyard. He was to have done so in 1858, but was prevented fulfilling the engagement. The Prince of Wales has been equally noticeable by his absence, but his son, the Duke of York, K. G., was President of the Society in 1894, and attended the show in that year at Aberdeen. The great park at Windsor was placed at the disposal of the Royal for its show in 1857,



THE QUEEN'S 1,000-GUINEA BULL "NEW YEAR'S GIFT," CHAMPION AT THE PLYMOUTH ROYAL, AND WINNER OF MANY DISTINCTIONS.

of the wealthier classes follow this as they do the other fancies of royalty. It all operates for the greater good of the community at large.

That there may be no charge of partiality, all breeds come in for the Queen's patronage. Berkshire pigs are reared in great numbers at Windsor. Cheviot ewes were at one time bought and crossed with Border Leicester rams for the production of half-breeds. These were found to be better than the Southdowns, and not so liable to foot rot. Windsor Great Park was at one time a great swamp, and the country generally lies low. Hence, no doubt, the difficulty experienced forty or fifty years ago in keeping sheep healthy on it. We suspect other breeds maturing more rapidly than the Cheviot are kept at Windsor now, and at the Balmoral

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