

Our Scottish Letter.

SHORTHORN AND ABERDEEN-ANGUS SALES.

It would be easy this week to write in a fashion fitted to irritate some of our readers. If the opinion entertained in some quarters regarding Canada and its import regulations were to be reflected in this communication, very likely there would be let slip the dogs of war. But that would neither help us nor help Canada, and the wisest course, therefore, is to leave the disturbing cause severely alone. Briefly, it is this. The great northern Shorthorn sales have been taking place this week, and like a "bolt from the blue" at their commencement on Tuesday came the intimation that Canada had scheduled all herds from which had come more than five per cent. of reacting cattle. Whether Collynie and Uppermill are amongst the scheduled herds we do not know. It is to be presumed they are not, as a small regiment of buyers from the United States and Canada was present at the Duthie-Marr combination sale, prepared to operate. The owners, however, refused to sell with a tuberculin guarantee while this embargo on any herd remained, and the over-sea contingent refrained from bidding. It was anticipated that Messrs. Duthie and Marr would sell their bull calves subject to the guarantee, and they could easily have done so without risk, but they resolved to defy the tuberculin test, and the magnificent demand realized showed that they were right. Rightly or wrongly, breeders in this country attach little or no importance to the test, and the fact that with only home buyers operating, Mr. Duthie's eighteen bull calves made an average of £115 15s. 10d., and Mr. Marr's fifteen made an average of £118 1s. 9d., is proof sufficient of the value attached by home breeders to the test. The Newton joint sale came on the following day. Mr. Gordon had passed his word that his bull calves would be sold subject to the guarantee, and he adhered to that. He, however, only had nine to sell and they made an average of £29 12s. 8d. His average over head for 18 animals, one-half of which were sold without guarantee, was £41 15s. 4d. His colleague, Mr. Wilson, Pirriessmill, Huntley, followed the lead of Messrs. Duthie and Marr and defied the test. He sold 14 bull calves at £42 13s. 6d. of an average. These figures are very suggestive, and admirably reflect the temper of breeders here with respect to tuberculin and its value. Another member of the Newton combination was Mr. Fran-

cis Simmers, Whiteside, Alford, who has been breeding high-class Shorthorns for several years. He sold 12 head at an average of £43 16s. 9d. The Pitcairnie laird, near Huntley, on the same day sold 35 at an average of £22 16s. 7d.

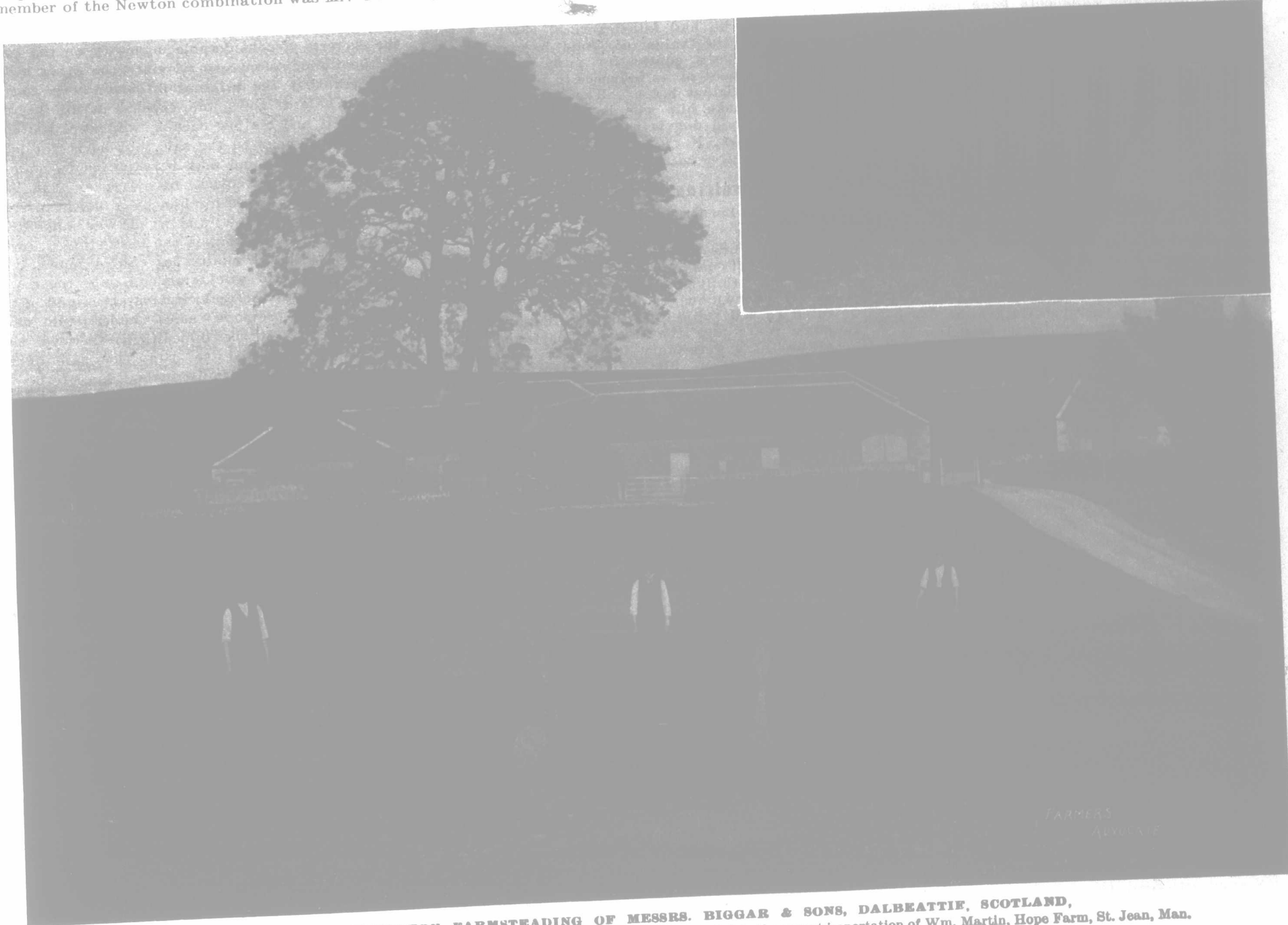
The greatest of all the sales took place on the third day at Jackston, Rothie-Norman, when 29 head from the home herd of Mr. James Durno and 31 head from the Westertoun herd of his cousin and namesake were sold. The yearlings and two-year-olds at this joint sale were sold subject to the test. The quality of the cattle in both herds was unusually high. Alike as breeders of Clydesdales and of Shorthorns, the Messrs. Durno are distinguished, and as honorable and upright Scotchmen they are not surpassed on this side of the Atlantic. They had a magnificent sale, and the United States men and Canadians backed them for all they knew. Jackston's offering of 29 females of all ages made an average of £71 17s., and Westertoun's offering of 31 females made £43 8s. 9d. This indicates that the guarantee meant something. The highest price of the day was for a Jackston yearling heifer, by the Collynie stock bull, Lovat Champion. The average for nine yearling heifers was the magnificent figure of £89 2s. 8d., and the eight two-year-olds were not far behind with £83 6s. 10d., while £61 11s. 1d. for eight cows leaves nothing to be desired. The Westertoun averages were also excellent. Six yearling heifers stood at £54 6s. 6d., and seven two-year-old heifers at £54 6s. On all hands there are congratulations on the results of this joint sale. The old herd at Shethin, Tarves, was dispersed to-day (Friday), but the results have not yet reached me.

Harking back to the Tillycairn sale, on Tuesday, something may be said about individual prices. It will have already been noticed that Uppermill average beats Collynie by about 45s. per head. This is, perhaps, the first occasion on which the figures have so turned out. The two highest prices of the day also stand at the credit of Uppermill. These were 320 gs. and 300 gs. Mr. Uppermill's highest was 250 gs., and he had one at 180 gs., and another at 165 gs., also one at 130 gs., and three at 100 gs. Mr. Marr had one at 160 gs., two at 120 gs., one at 105 gs., and two at 100 gs. What the averages for both herds would have been had their owners sold subject to the tuberculin guarantee it would be hard to determine. There were quite enough buyers present from across the Atlantic to have made the

purchase of a Collynie or Uppermill bull calf impossible to a home buyer. In the circumstances, the action of the Canadian authorities has been a godsend to home breeders, and it does not appear that anyone here is sorry the "bolt from the blue" fell.

Aberdeen-Angus breeders completed their wanderings a week ago. The closing week was spent in England, where a series of five sales was held, in which the blacks had a fine run of prosperity, and good averages were recorded. But before going south, the breeders assisted at the dispersal of the excellent herd owned by the late Mr. J. Morrison, Hattonslap, in the Oldmeldrum district. The sixty-two head of all ages made an average of £24 11s. 7d. Another dispersion, due to the same sad cause, the death of a respected owner, took place a week later, and on the eve of the English sales at Perth. This was the last of the famous Powrie herd of the late Mr. Thomas Smith, a born enthusiast in cattle-breeding, and a man of the finest moral fibre. He persistently refused to over-feed his cattle, and they were sold in store condition. The 49 head made an average of £30 13s. 1d. Twenty-two of these were cows, and their average was £35 2s. 8d. The notable tribe in the sale was that of Witch of Endor. White udders were not uncommon, and indeed some of the best of the cattle had rather more white about them than purists whose knowledge of the breed is derived mostly from books would regard as possible. Powrie was a very old and very pure herd, but its proprietor believed in an animal rather than in a color, and he liked the symmetry to be right rather than its shade. Cattle-breeding in Great Britain has a history which in some cases has not been written.

The English week began at Eshott, in Northumberland, and closed at Battle, near the place where Norman William landed in 1066 and defeated Harold, the Saxon, in that memorable year. The best average of the week was made by the 19 sold from Mr. Clement Stephenson's herd at Balliol College farm, Longbenton. The figure was £43 13s. 2d. None of the other averages reached the £40, but they were good enough for all that. The scene of the second sale was Preston Bisset, in Buckingham, where Rev. Charles Bolden sold 31 head at an average of £36 13s. 7d. The characteristic of Mr. Bolden's cattle is their strength. They are a healthy, long-lived race, and grow to greater scale than is custom-



VIEW OF CHAPELTON FARMSTEADING OF MESSRS. BIGGAR & SONS, DALBEATTIE, SCOTLAND.
With group of their Galloways, which, with the three-year-old bull, Grand Scot, are included in the recent importation of Wm. Martin, Hope Farm, St. Jean, Man.