

During January and February the run of cattle per month has been between 6,000 and 7,000 head, besides the quota of sheep and hogs. Monday is the big market day of the week at the Junction. The future of this market is assured. With the growth of packing-house and abattoir interests immediately adjacent to the yards, the manager, Mr. H. H. Hodgson, realizes a redoubled assurance for the future.

#### NEW PACKING ESTABLISHMENT AND ABATTOIR.

Two large establishments on St. Clair Street, facing south, and overlooking the Union Stockyards, are to be completed about June of the present year. One of these is the Levack & Martin Abattoir Co., who are covering nearly 1½ acres with a modern dressed-meat and fertilizer establishment, with a capacity for handling some 3,000 cattle and probably 8,000 sheep and lambs per week. Five hundred head of cattle per day can be killed, and there will be hanging space for 3,000 carcasses of dressed beef. Mr. Levack is the well-known Toronto live-stock and meat trader, and Mr. Martin is an American, who is at the back of a similar new big concern in Montreal. Mr. W. H. Thurlow, of Baltimore, is the engineer in charge. This establishment approximates an outlay of some \$200,000.

One lot further west is a still larger, and, we understand, more costly, concern, that of the old and successful Toronto house, Gunn Co., Ltd., that will cover probably two acres, capable of disposing of 5,000 hogs per week, and 200 head per day each of cattle and sheep. Judged by the work, as in progress, it will be a model institution.

#### THE GENERAL OUTLOOK.

With the foregoing and existing establishments in full swing, there would seem to be every reasonable assurance that the Ontario farmer, in whose favor Nature has provided everything with a generous hand, should increase the number and quality of his herds and flocks, in order that he may take full advantage of the opportunities developing at his door, providing that the prices and cost of production can continue to be so adjusted as to leave him a fair margin of profit. As yet the labor problem is an uncertain element from the farmer's standpoint, and there is no doubt room for the application of more thoroughgoing and closer business methods in many quarters on the farm in live-stock rearing. Men of a conservative turn of mind, well versed in the present trade in Ontario meat products, consider an early increase, to the extent of 30 to 40 per cent. in animal food products, as a not unreasonable possibility.

#### Our Scottish Letter.

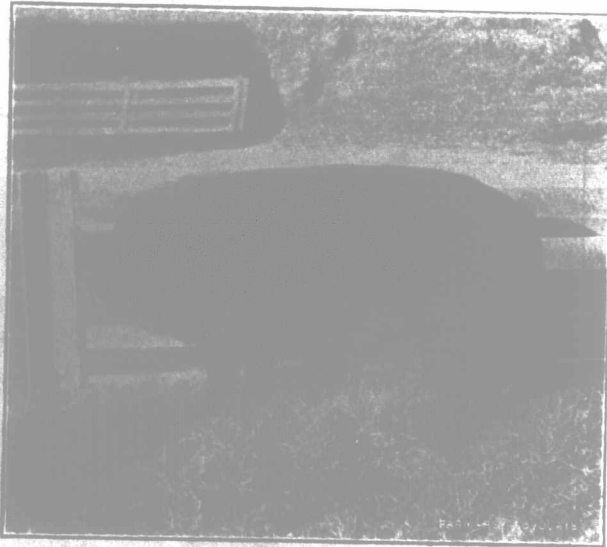
The spring bull sales are over for another year. Shorthorns had a top price of 1,500 gs.; Aberdeen-Angus a top price of 270 gs.; Highlanders, a top price of £121; and Galloways, a top price of 41 gs. It seems like a dream, but the facts are all there, and the one prosperous department of British agriculture to-day is the breeding of pedigree stock. The Perth Shorthorn sale of 1906 constitutes a record. Never before have such prices been recorded for yearling bulls, and the grand average of £84 1s. 5d. for 251 bulls is something to boast about. Last year the corresponding figure was £49 11s. 11d., but prices which then made men wonder were this year nothing accounted of. The outstanding averages were made by Lord Lovat, whose Beaufort Castle herd in Inverness-shire has a world-wide fame; and the two James Durnos, in Aberdeenshire, Jackston, and Westertown. Lord Lovat got an average of £471 9s. for eight yearling bulls. His first-prize group of three made an average of £864 10s. The first-prize single yearling, calved before 1st March, 1905, was Broadhooks Champion, a great fleshy red, which Mr. Miller took off to Buenos Ayres at 1,500 gs., or £1,575. The fifth- and the ninth-prize winners also went to Buenos Ayres, their buyer being Mr. Donald MacLennan, and their respective prices, 410 gs. and 560 gs. The first-prize bull in the younger class—that is, calved after 1st March, 1905, was Diamond Earl, from Westertown, Rothie-Norman, which the Earl of Moray managed to keep at home at 700 gs., or £735. The average made by the Westertown second-prize group of three was £539. Mr. James Durno, their plucky breeder, had an average over head of £232 18s. 6d. for 12 head, certainly a very remarkable figure. The whole dozen were got by the Uppermill-bred red bull, Diamond Mine, which has proved one of the best breeding bulls known in this country for a long time.

Mr. Durno's relative and namesake, who owns the Jackston herd, also near to Rothie-Norman, beat him for average, but had fewer animals. The Jackston return is £262 10s. of an average for five yearling bulls. Mr. Stewart, Millhills, Crieff, came up well, with £246 8s. for three, and Mr. H. M. S. Mackay, Burgis, Forres, £236 5s. for two. A noted Aberdeenshire herd, that of Mr. Reid, of Cromleybank, made £185 1s. 3d. for four, and Mr. Napier, of Dallachy, had £146 14s. 9d. for an equal number. Sir John Gilmour, of Montrave, Bart., met a full trade for his heifers, making the splendid average of £71 13s. 3d. for eight yearlings. Altogether 314 Shorthorns, of which 251 were bulls, made an average of £74 10s. 2s. at the Perth sales.

Macdonald, Fraser & Co. (Ltd.) had made record

arrangements for judging this magnificent lot of young Shorthorns. The bench consisted of two Scotsmen and two Englishmen, Messrs. A. M. Gordon, of Newton, and William Duthie, Collynie, Tarves, representing the north, and Messrs. John Handley, Greenhead, Milnthorpe, Westmorland, and George Harrison, Gainford Hall, Darlington, the south. The Beaufort cattle have a dash of Bates blood in them, which has always come out in the stock. The late Mr. Lawson, the expert manager at Beaufort Castle, was the first who successfully blended Bates and Cruickshank blood. The Aberdeen bulls selected by him crossed well with the cows on the Bates foundation; and, again, the Underley cross came on in Royal Star. Some times in the past the pronounced red of the Lovat cattle was regarded as a drawback, especially when it happened to be conjoined with a "fleck" of white, as sometimes happened. But the reds are now in demand, and the 1,500 gs. Broadhooks Champion is simply an ideal bull for the South American market. No home buyer got a chance to bid for him. The Argentine men kept that wholly in their own hands, and it was all over in 1½ minutes. The presiding auctioneer was Mr. Tom Paton, who also sold the Kinnaird Castle Highlanders at record prices in August last.

As things stand this year, none of the other breeds makes a good second to the Shorthorn. Of course, the A-A black polled breed comes next, but it is after a long interval. The average price of 276 bulls at Perth was £27 16s., as against £26 3s. 5d. for about the same number in 1905. At Aberdeen, in the same week, 199 yearling bulls made £21 0s. 9d., and 11 yearling heifers, £13 17s. 9d. Mr. Escher, from Iowa, did a good deal to make the sale as good as it was. He bought whatever he wanted, and any competitor who essayed a fall with him got the worst of the fight. Ballindalloch again easily outdistanced all competitors, taking the highest price, 270 gs., or £283 10s., the buyer being Mr. Donald Macrae, Stenhouse, Dumfries, and the animal a beautifully level specimen, named Everlasting. Like nearly all the other highest-priced animals at the sale, he is of the renowned Trian-Erlea



Improved Essex Boar.

Owned by J. Featherston & Son, Streetsville, Ont.  
A good representative of the modern type.

tribe. The Ballindalloch average for eight bulls was £164 19s. 8d., and the first-prize group of three made £178 15s. Trade for the blacks was certainly better this year than in 1905, but the "black" men are never satisfied unless they are upstides with the Shorthorn men. It will easily be seen that they have a long run to travel before they reach that goal. The Argentine buyers do not greatly favor the blacks, although more buyers from that quarter have been operating this year than in the past, and Irishmen are also very cautious in dealing with black polled stock. In the case of the Argentine it is said the blacks do not settle well on the treeless prairie in hot weather, and the objection taken in Ireland is that they are not dairy cattle. The Irish farmer depends on dairying and calf-rearing. He cannot do the one without the other.

Highlanders have been receiving recognition from the American Bureau of Agriculture. There is an elaborate article on the breed in the recent issue of the Reports of that Department for 1904. The article is well illustrated, and there is not much more to be said about the breed than appears there. This year there were too many bulls at the Oban sale, and the demand for yearlings was very slow. The highest-priced bull, Fear-a-Bhata of Atholl, was champion of the show, as he has been first for the past two years, 1904 and 1905, at the H. & A. S. Shows. He is a grand lengthy, heavily-fleshed bull, and made £121 to Colonel McDonald, of Logan, Stranraer, a gentleman who, in the center of the dairying industry, favors the picturesque Highlander. The average price made by 71 Highland bulls was £25 3s. 10d. Galloways come far behind these breeds. The highest price at the Castle-Douglas sale was 11 2s., paid by Mr. Colwell, a spirited patron of the breed in the North of Ireland, for the first-prize bull stirk, which was bred by Mr. David Brown, Stenod, Dumfries.

With such a good demand for breeding stock, readers will readily understand that considerable anxiety exists among cattle-breeders with regard to the intentions of the new Government in respect of the agitation for the

amendment of the Act, 1896, so as to admit Canadian store cattle. A very emphatic protest against any interference with the status quo was recorded at Perth, by the great gathering of breeders, feeders and exporters who there assembled. The hand of the Government is to be forced by one of their own supporters, Mr. Cairns, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, who has been lucky in the ballot, and has put down the second reading of a bill to amend the Act for 6th April. Cattle-breeders here have organized, and a National Cattle-breeders' Association has been formed, while the President of the Board of Agriculture is to receive an agricultural deputation on the subject on Tuesday, first. It is not likely he will give the Government away, but sometimes one may read between the lines. There can be little doubt that any modification of the existing law would kill the export trade in pedigree stock, and with every desire to be fair to Canadian sentiment, I am persuaded that any alteration of the existing law would do Canada more harm than good. As matters stand, everybody knows the law of Great Britain, and can frame their trade policy in some way to meet it. Under an amended law the cattle interest on both sides of the Atlantic would be at the mercy of any disease scare that might be brevited, and the President here would be bound to close the ports on the first indication that disease threatened. I cannot see how that would be a desirable policy for anyone.

Clydesdales are being shipped weekly to your side. Mr. William Colquhoun, Mitchell, Ont., shipped seven stallions a fortnight ago, and a week later Mr. F. Mowle, Didsbury, Alta., shipped two stallions and four fillies, and Mr. Dugald Ross, Streetsville, Ont., shipped eight fillies. Most of these were bought from Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, Kirkcudbright, and although Mr. Colquhoun picked up about one-half of his contingent at different centers from breeders, all were useful animals, of which Canada has no cause to be ashamed. They will command a ready sale on your side. Mr. Soderborg, Osce, Ill., sailed along with Mr. Colquhoun, having 12 horses, bought from Messrs. Montgomery.

The Shire Horse Show has been held this week. I have seen it for the first time for four years, and observe a clear reversion in everything but color to the type of animal fancied by the Shire men twenty years ago. The two supreme championships were won by Messrs. James Forshaw & Sons, Newark-on-Trent, for a big dark-brown horse, Present King II., and the gray mare, Sussex Blue-gown. Whether Clydesdale men are right or wrong in their ideas, there can be no doubt at all that their idea of what a good draft horse ought to be is very different from that entertained by the breeders in the South, who like the type of Present King II. and Sussex Blue-gown.

The enthusiasm among breeders of Clydesdales is great. Mr. Marshall has let his two horses, Baronson and Memento, for the season of 1907 on high terms. The former goes to the Scottish Central Horse-breeding Society, and the latter to the Rhins of Galloway Society. In that district sixty years ago the service fees for the best horse were 20s. at service, and 2s. 6d. to the groom.

"SCOTLAND YET."

#### A Study of Breeds of Swine.

##### THE ESSEX.

The Essex, an English breed, native of the County of Essex, are black in color, and of medium size. They are said to be the outcome of crossing the Neapolitan upon the old Essex breed, which were black and white, large and coarse in build. The Neapolitans were first imported from Italy by Lord Western, in 1830, and for some time the progeny were designated Essex-Neapolitan. The effect of the cross was to change the color to black, reduce the bone, shorten the leg and snout, improve the general form. This work began about 1840, and was chiefly effected by Fisher Hobbs, one of Lord Western's tenants. In Britain they are found most numerous in the Counties of Essex and Suffolk. They were imported to the United States and Canada about 1850, but have not been very numerous bred in either country, as they were formerly regarded as one of the smaller breeds, but they have been, by selection and good management, considerably enlarged and given greater length of late years in Canada, so that, as shown at the fairs now, they conform to the bacon type to a very satisfactory degree, and have proved valuable for crossing with some of the larger and coarser breeds, producing an early-maturing class, of excellent quality and profitable to raise. Because of their contented disposition they are good grazers and easy feeders, and, when well fed, may be marketed at almost any age. The quality of their meat is juicy, tender, and well-flavored, and is especially adapted to family use and to a select trade. In general appearance the Essex are neat and smooth in form, nicely turned at the shoulders and hips, symmetrical and handsome.

#### Great Value in Paper and Premium.

I received your valuable premium, and I am more than pleased with it. My friends that have seen it say it's a dandy. I am also more than pleased with your paper. I don't know how you can give such a good premium with such a good paper for so little money. I will help your paper all I can. Wishing you success.  
Geo. C. Orl.  
ALEX. FINDLAY.