

Brighter Prospects for the Stock-Cattle Trade.

The two dispersion sales of Shorthorns held last month; namely, Hon. Thos. Greenway's and Messrs. A. and G. Mutch's, besides some good private sales by breeders, indicate that the interest in purebred cattle breeding and in stock raising generally is reviving. Prices realized at these sales were somewhat higher than those that have prevailed in recent years for cattle of the same quality and that in spite of the fact that stock raising has undergone one of the severest tests to which it has been subjected for many years by the extremely severe winter we have just come through. Doubtless the cattle trade in Canada is benefited by the rising tide and buoyant tone of the purebred cattle market in the States, and apart from that there appears to be a steady tendency among our own farmers to devote more attention to stock raising. Market prices for commercial cattle are doing a lot toward encouraging this tendency. As high as six and a quarter cents per pound live weight has been paid on the Winnipeg market for good butchers' cattle and that is what makes feeding attractive.

The improvement in the trade comes at a time when the breeding industry needs assurance. The men who have persisted in raising cattle during the years of big wheat crops when the public appeared to be quite indifferent to the value of stock of any kind, are deserving of considerable compensation. It requires courage and no small amount of confidence and cash to persist in raising cattle for the betterment of the general average when the country appears to regard the products of the stable and byres as unnecessary to their welfare. The hope is that such a time is now passed, that from now on there will be a steady demand for cattle of a class that will tend to provide meat at the least possible cost to the feeder and to accomplish this breeding stock that have this characteristic largely developed are required in every herd.

Range Prospects in the States.

John Clay, a live stock commission merchant of Chicago, has made a tour of the range country along the boundary line and reports as follows:

During an extended trip in Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota the writer saw a large area of the range country. It is grass and more grass everywhere. It looks as though there would be the best feed we have had since 1888. A great part of the prairie is like a hay field and stock of all kinds are thriving and in fine condition. We saw some Texas steers put up a month ago and they have filled out so rapidly that they look like wintered cattle. It looks as if beef cattle will be far above an average in quality. Shipments will commence about August 1st from South Dakota. The Montana cattle will be late, owing to the severe winter they passed through.

Sheep shearing is about over, but little wool has as yet been delivered, on account of bad weather. The price on the range is in and around 20 cents, some clips going at 22½ cents. The demand, while not urgent, is healthy, and there promises to be a free movement. The lamb crop is very short, from 50 to 60 per cent., and even less. Flockmasters complain of the steadily increasing cost of running sheep. With present prices it does not cut much of a figure, but if we get back to average values it will be a serious problem.

Crops in the west are late but healthy looking. On dry farms everything looks well on account of heavy rains. At Belle Fourche the rainfall from April 1st to June 20th was close to 12 inches and this has made everything boom in that neighborhood.

Royal Counties Show.

Taken as a whole, the Royal Counties Show, held at Maidenhead the last week in May, was a thoroughly representative one.

HORSES.

The classification does not give a section for Shire horses, but follows the somewhat out-of-date method of giving classes for what are termed Agricultural Horses, but practically all the leading winners were of the Shire breed. The entry was not large, but the quality was very good. Danesfield Stone Wall and Shustoke Monarch were first and third in the aged-stallion classes for Mr. Hudson, the former taking the champion prize as best stallion. Mr. F. A. Muntz, with Dunsmore Franklin, was second. In the two-year-old class the competition was better, and King Forest won leading honors and reserve number for champion for Mr. F. E. Muntz, King of

Tanbridge and Buscot Victor being second and third for Mr. Michaelis and Sir A. Henderson. The blood mares were a good lot, Blythwood Laurel leading the way for Mr. Hudson, followed by Norbury Early, owned by Mr. M. Solomons. The winner here was reserve number for champion mare, being beaten by Mr. Muntz' Aldeby Lady Jameson, first in the three-year-old class, whose closest competitors were Alexandra of Tanbridge, owned by Mr. M. Michaelis, and Danesfield Confidence, owned by Sir A. Henderson. In a good class of yearling fillies, Mr. Solomons and Lord Winterstoke, with Norbury Juno and Rickford Ladybird, went first and second.

CATTLE.

Shorthorns take precedence in the cattle classification, and the competition was very good in most sections. Evanger and Bapton Viscount were winners of the Shorthorn Society's prize and its reserve for the best bull in Berkshire, Wiltshire or Hampshire, the former owned by H. M. the King, and the latter by Mr. J. Deane-Willis. The old-bull class was headed by Elevatham Monarch, from Lord Calthorpe's herd, H. M. the King taking second with Enchanter, and Mr. R. Taylor reserve with Royal Beaufort. In two-year-olds, Royal Windsor won first and champion honors as best male of the breed for H. M. the King. This is a beautiful roan, and well grown. Mr. R. Taylor's Baron Linderstorm, a white, took second honors, followed by another white, Mr. Willis' Stone Crop as reserve. In yearling bulls, H. M. the King's Evander, reserve number for champion honors, was first, followed by Bapton Viscount. In the cow class, Lord Calthorpe's beautiful Roan Sweetheart was clearly first, Mr. R. Taylor's Donside Princess following. The latter exhibitor, with Pitlivi Rosebud 2nd, won first honors in a good class of two-year-old heifers, and also champion honors with the same typical heifer. Eva, a roan of fine type and character, was second for H. M. the King, and her herd mate, Marjorie, another roan, won first in the yearling class, and was made r. n. for champion honors. Mr. Willis took second, and Lord Calthorpe's Elvetham Sweetheart was r. n. The dairy Shorthorn classes, two in number, were well supported, and there was very keen competition in both. Mr. G. W. Taylor won first honors in the older class, followed by two entries of Lord Rothschild's that were second and r. n. In the younger class, His Lordship was first with a fine roan cow, whose position was closely challenged by a roan Waterloo cow owned by Mr. C. A. Scott-Murray, which was second, with Mr. C. Adeane as third.

There was a grand entry of Aberdeen-Angus, both in respect to number and quality; in fact, the strength of competition, as well as the number of entries, shows how popular this breed is becoming in the south of England. The bull Idelmere won first honors and champion as best animal in the class, and the gold medal for the same, for Mr. T. H. Bainbridge; Everwise, Mr. J. J. Cridlan's excellent bull, took second honors. In the younger class, Sir G. Cooper was first and second with a grand pair of bulls. The winner was Black for Ever of Ballindalloch, and his herd mate, Premier of Hursley, was second, leaving the reserve number to Mr. W. G. Greenfield's Royal Justice of Haynes II. In the cow class, Mr. Bainbridge's Eileen of Abergeldy was first, followed by Darling of Haynes II. owned by Mr. Greenfield. The class of heifers was a remarkably fine one, and its winner, the Rev. C. Bolden's Veratis of Preston, was a particularly fine and well-grown heifer, and well deserved its champion honors. Messrs. Bainbridge and Greenfield were second and third.

There was a very good and typical entry of Herefords. H. M. the King, with Admiral, won first honors for old bulls, followed by the Earl of Coventry's Lama. The younger bull class had Mr. D. A. Thomas' Samson for its winner, followed by his herd mate, Kaiser. Madam, the Earl of Coventry's beautiful cow, was winner in her class. A like position in the two-year-old heifer class was occupied by Mr. W. B. Tubb's entry, Princess Beatrice, and Mr. J. Rowlands won first honors in the yearling-heifer class.

The entries in the Jersey classes were very large indeed, Lord Rothschild winning champion honors, for bulls with Oxford Wrangler, and Messrs. A. Pocock and A. Miller Hallett were winners in the other bull classes. Lord Rothschild, with Frolic, took the champion prize for females; this is a very beautiful yearling heifer. Mr. A. Miller Hallett, A. Pocock, Earl of Rose-

bery, Lady Smythe, Lady de Rothschild, were amongst the other leading winners.

The entries in the Guernsey classes were good, and the competition keen. Mr. H. F. Plumtre, with Roland of Seaview 10th, won first and champion honors in the old-bull class. Messrs. E. A. Hambro, F. Hargreaves, J. Pierpont Morgan, E. St. Aubyn and Lady Tichbourne were the other leading winners.

A choice lot of Kerrys and Dexters were present. Lady Greenall and G. L. Farmer were the principal winners in the former. The Duchess of Devonshire, Hon. Mrs. C. Portman, Mrs. S. A. Lee, etc., were the leading winners in the latter. The dairy-herd competition was an interesting one, and brought in an excellent entry.

SHEEP.

The Hampshire Down entry was a remarkably fine and good one. Champion honors, as well as special for best pen of lambs, was won by Mr. James Flower. This breeder, together with Mr. T. F. Buxton, Sir W. G. Pearse, Bart., Messrs. H. C. Stephens, Cary Coles, and the Marquis of Winchester, were the principal winners.

The Southdown classes were well filled with a thoroughly typical entry. Champion honors for best exhibit, together with the gold medal for the best male, went to Mr. C. Adeane, whose yearling ram, two-shear ram and ram lamb were specially good. The Duke of Richmond won champion honors for females with a grand pen of yearling ewes; His Grace was also second for both yearling and two-shear rams. Sir T. V. S. Gooch was first for ram lambs with a remarkably fine pen. The Exors. of Col. McCalmont were represented in the lamb classes with some remarkably good lambs, and their shearing ram was a grand one. The Duke of Devonshire was also well to the fore, and the exhibits made by the Duke of Northumberland, Sir J. Werner and Mr. J. Colman were of high merit.

Sir Richard Cooper and Mr. A. Tanner shared the honors in the Shropshire classes, with very typical sheep.

The entry of the Kent or Romney Marsh sheep was a remarkably good one. Mr. Charles File won first honors for both yearling and two-year-old rams, and also second for yearling ewes. In this class Mr. William Millen was first, and Mr. J. B. Palmer won second honors in the yearling ram class with a very typical sheep. Mr. F. Neame was third in the two ram classes, and v. h. c. in that for yearling ewes.

A choice lot of Oxford Downs represented this breed, and Mr. J. Horlick won first honors with a particularly fine ram. He was also second for yearling ewes, in which class Mr. Jas. T. Hobbs was first, the latter breeder being second for yearling rams. Mr. G. Adams won first honors in the ram lamb class, as well as second, with first-class pens.

The Dorset-horn entry was highly satisfactory, and the leading winners were Messrs. E. A. Hambro, who won for yearling rams and ewes; Mr. W. R. Flower, who was second for yearling rams and first for ram lambs; and Mr. F. J. Merson, who was second for yearling ewes.

SWINE.

The entry of Berkshires was a remarkably good one, numbering 84 pens. Mr. G. T. Inman's Highmoor Mikado, last year's winner, again repeated his success, and also won special as best boar of the breed. The Duchess of Devonshire, Mr. R. W. Hudson and Lord Calthorpe were the other leading winners for boars. The last-named exhibitor won first with Elvetham Fancy in the young-sow class, and with this exhibit took the special prize for the best sow, and also the champion prize for the best Berkshire. The Duchess of Devonshire, Mr. R. W. Hudson, and Mr. J. Jefferson were also winners.

The Large or Middle White section was a small one. Mr. C. Spencer took leading honors for boars, and Mr. R. M. Knowles for sows.

W. W. C.

A Strong Argument for Fodder Crops.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Too much cannot be said against the practice of burning straw in the fall and I for one have always condemned it as a great waste, but I do not think that the loss of cattle many of us have had the last winter and spring, has been through starvation; that is among the farmers, but through the feeding of straw. If you remember, sir, in an issue of your paper last fall you cautioned the