

Chatty Letter from the States.

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

After the severe depression in cattle prices, owing to excessive receipts, prices advanced 30 to 50 cents per hundred pounds the middle of August, good 1,400 to 1,600-lb. cattle selling freely at \$4.80 to \$5.00.

The remarkable drought which has extended over so wide a scope of country has had the effect of materially changing the entire situation in the live stock world. It has also served to show how very dependent is our American farmer on the crop which our British cousins, who prepare stock for the shambles, are independent of, namely, Indian maize. Early in the season the general prospects for a big corn crop were excellent, and there seemed to be no good reason why there would not be an unusually large number of animals fattened during the summer and early fall. In most localities there was a goodly supply of old corn on hand, and it was the most natural thing in the world that, in the face of good crop prospects, there should be a free use of it in making early beef, pork and mutton. The scorching rays of the sun poured down and the rain fell not. The pastures dried up and the price of corn went up. Farmers who had old corn on hand began to feel that it was worth more as a cereal than in the form of marketable meat, and those who were dependent upon the stores of their neighbors immediately began to sacrifice the cattle whether one-fourth or one-half fat, or not fat at all. The result has been a very heavy over-marketing of cattle and hogs not at all fit for market and of course a collapse in prices.

Western ranchmen are a little disappointed at the low opening of the markets for their class of stock, but they were unfortunate in starting in just when the dry weather was forcing in such large numbers of unripe native cattle. A good many well informed dealers seem to think the late sales of western range cattle will be the best as they think the panic caused by the drought will be only temporary and that a strong reaction is bound to set in.

While corn feeders are sacrificing their young cattle many of the heaviest cattle and meat dealers are showing their faith in the future of the general market by purchasing freely of cattle to put on feed in the distilleries and glucose factories.

There is more life in the demand for well located cattle ranch properties than for years past, but at the same time some of the heavy companies in the Northwest are at this time sending to the butcher thousands of cows and yearlings. Thus we see the trade is full of anomalies, but if it were not for this difference of opinion there would be less incentive to trading than there is.

The live cattle export trade is not very brisk, but there is a good free movement all the time, and if it were not for this outlet American cattle would be selling much lower than they are.

R. H. Whitsett, Aledo, Ill., had in a load of cattle averaging 1,320 lbs. that brought \$4.75. They were grade Shorthorns.

W. S. Vannatta & Son, Fowler, Ind., marketed fifteen 1,510-lb. Herefords at \$4.75.

D. A. Hancock, Blackburn, Mo., marketed three loads of nearly purebred Polled-Angus, his own feeding, which averaged 1,420 lbs. and sold for \$4.85 and three loads of the same cattle

averaging 1,464 lbs at \$4.92½ the following day when the market was higher.

The western range cattle have sold lately at \$3.10 and \$3.75, for fair to prime 1,075 to 1,240 lbs., wintered Montana Texans. For the week ended August 2nd Chicago received 85,890 head of cattle, not counting 5,380 calves, being the largest week's receipts on record.

Hogs will be scarcer than expected this winter, unless the corn crop is much better than now seems possible. There will probably be no material shortage, but it was expected that the winter crop of hogs would be a large one.

Our Clydesdale Letter.

The season of 1890 will long be memorable as one of the most exciting amongst Clydesdale breeders in Scotland. The show of the Royal Agricultural Society of England at Plymouth in the end of June and of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland at Dundee last week were both remarkable in their way for the Clydesdale representation that was forward on both occasions, and two unexpected, but not therefore erroneous decisions. The two horses bred at Craigre, Ayrshire, and own brothers Mr. Gilmour's Prince of Albion and Mr. Kilpatrick's Prince of Kyle, after remarkable runs of success have both had their colors lowered and suffered defeat. Prince of Albion, the older of the two, and possessing the greater balance of Clydesdale characteristics, has performed the unprecedented feat of winning first prize four years in succession at the Highland and Agricultural Society's Shows, viz., at Perth in 1887, Glasgow in 1888, Melrose in 1889, and Dundee in 1890. When passing one his appearance is altogether pleasing, and the beauty of his form and gaiety of his carriage have rarely been equalled and never excelled. He is a bay horse with four white feet and pasterns and a white stripe on face. His weakest points are his back, which is a little plain; his thighs, which are not so well developed as might be, and in his movement he walks rather wide behind. His surpassing balance of merit in every other detail has rendered him perhaps the most uniformly popular Clydesdale stallion of the half century which has intervened since the National Society of Scotland last held a show at Dundee.

But we have said that he has been beaten. The vanquisher was Prince Alexander, a yearling-bred like Prince of Albion, sire Prince of Wales 673, dam by Darnley 222, a cross which seems never to have failed—no fewer than three of the first prize winners at Dundee having been so bred. Prince Alexander was bred by Mr. Alexander Black, Craigencrosh, Stranraer, and his owner is Mr. William Renwick, Meadowfield, Corstorphine. He was never before exhibited but stepped at once into first place, and in competition with all the first prize winners secured the Clydesdale Horse Society's Championship of £25.

Mr. Renwick also owned the first prize three-year-old stallion, Darnley's Last, whose sire was the celebrated Darnley and his dam a Prince of Wales mare. This horse will not be three years old until the 7th of August. He is a richly colored horse with scarcely a speck of white on his uniform coat of deep dark brown, and he moves freshly and with sufficient activity.

Mr. Peter Crawford, Dumfries, is owner of the first prize two-year-old stallion Prince of Carruchan, whose dam was also dam of the champion female Clydesdale Sunrise, owned by

Mr. Riddell. The sire of the dam of these animals was got by the well known horse Old Times 579, and her owner is Mr. John MacCaig, Challock House, Teswalt, who bred the fourth prize yearling filly, the first prize two-year-old filly Scottish Snowdrop, which has never been beaten, and the two animals already specified, Prince of Carruchan and Sunrise, a feat never before equalled in the annals of Clydesdale breeding.

Mr. R. Sinclair Scott, of Craigievar, was also a very successful exhibitor. He was first in the brood mare class with his fine mare Scottish Marchioness; second in the class of three-year-old fillies, with the beautiful Darnley mare Scottish Rose, and first, as we have seen, with Scottish Snowdrop.

Mr. Gilmour, of Montrave, Fifeshire, the owner of Prince of Albion, had great success. He was first in the class of three-year-old mares with Montrave Gay Lass and in the class of yearlings with Montrave Maud, both of which were bred by himself out of two of the grandest mares ever exhibited. These were Lasso Gowrie, the dam of the first named, and the more celebrated Moss Rose, the dam of the second. The sire of Montrave Gay Lass was Garnet Cross, and of Montrave Maud, Prince of Wales, whose produce were numerous and marvellously successful at this show, as indeed they have been at every show this season.

The great sensation of the Royal was of course the defeat of Prince of Kyle in his class and the victory of Mr. Andrew Montgomery's unknown horse the Macara 7991, a son of the celebrated Macgregor and the champion of the Royal Show. This magnificent horse will doubtless cause a stir in America. He has been purchased by Colonel Robert Holloway, Alexis, Ill., and is a massive, powerful stallion. Mr. Robert Graham, Claremont, Ont., is here at present and does not know how to express his admiration for this great horse, which he would doubtless have tried to take to Canada had not the horse been bought before he arrived.

Great activity prevails amongst breeders in the hiring of horses for next season and remarkably high terms have been agreed on for several horses. Amongst horses owned by Mr. Peter Crawford, Lord Erskine goes to Dumfries district at £10 per mare with £3 additional for each foal, Prince Robert to the Rhins, of Galloway, on similar terms, and Prince of Carruchan to Perth and Brechire district at £10 each mare with £5 additional for each foal. Mr. Andrew Montgomery has hired the ever famed Macgregor and the young horse Prince Darnley, that was first at the Royal, to the Kirkcudbright district, and he has sold the celebrated Sirdar to the Fortmartine and Garioch Club in Aberdeenshire for £1,400, the highest price, I think, that has ever been paid for a horse of his age. Mr. Galbraith's Lord Ailsa is let to the Gorvan and Ballantrae district at £6 a mare and £6 additional for each foal. Mr. Renwick's Darnley's Last goes to the Machars of Wigtownshire at £10 each mare, payable at service, and his own brother Royalist, owned by Mr. Lumsden, of Balmedie, to Moray and Ross, where Cairnbrogie Stamp has been three seasons on handsome terms.

In my next letter I shall hope to give some details regarding the more notable horses exported to Canada this season. We have had visits from nearly all of our old friends and their purchases have been of high quality. We have missed the kindly face of our tried friend Mr. Robert Beith, Bowmanville, Ont., whom we hope to see later on.

SCOTLAND YET.

Glasgow, Aug. 4, 1890.