

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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Canada from cold in winter or from heat in summer. With the warm covering provided for them in their coat of all wool they need only the common shelter afforded by a roof and a single-boarded shed to keep them in perfect comfort in the coldest weather we ever have, provided the sheep are fed a decent allowance of hay and either roots or a light feed of grain. The experience of sheep owners is that sheep thrive better in our driest and hottest than in wet summers, notwithstanding that grass is more plentiful in the latter case.

Although the growing of roots successfully for winter may not be as uniformly possible in this country as in England, yet it is a fact that the leading breeders of pedigree stock, and very many farmers engaged in feeding beef cattle and in dairying in all the Provinces, rarely fail to secure good crops of turnips or mangels; and with a fair supply of roots it is easily possible to keep our sheep in thriving condition throughout our winter.

The only advantage England has over Canada in raising sheep is that her shepherds have had long experience in the care of sheep, and their whole time is devoted to that special line of work. Besides this, in many sections green crops are sown at different periods, on which the sheep are huddled, fresh portions being enclosed every few days, while the ground on which they have fed and which has been manured by their droppings is plowed for some other crop.

For winter feed in England turnips are largely grown, and are fed off upon the land, while dry feed—as hay and grain—is fed in racks and troughs in the fields. There is little doubt that if the same attention were given to feeding and providing a constant supply of green food, sheep would hold their own quite as well in this country as in England; and there is no doubt in our mind that by the cultivation of vetches, peas, corn, rape and roots a regular and constant supply of succulent food may be provided the year round. The labor involved in such a course may be said to practically prohibit it here, but it is certainly not accomplished without labor in England, and while labor may not

cost as much there, yet the amount of it that is put upon the land and the slowness of the movements of the average farm hand there makes the expense as much or more than it would be here.

With regard to the question of the evolution of a distinctively Canadian breed of sheep, while we see no necessity for it, believing that the British breeds we have are well suited to our climate and conditions, and will give us as good results here as in any country under reasonably good care, yet we would not discourage those who think differently from making the experiment, and to one having the taste for that sort of work and the necessary perseverance and persistence there is an open field, though it is about certain than in any such experiment the English breeds would necessarily play an important part, but to the great majority the wise course will be to improve the stock they have by the steady use of pure-bred sires of the one breed of their choice, and by selection of the best for breeding to grade up and hold the improvement they attain in this way, which is a safe rule to follow.

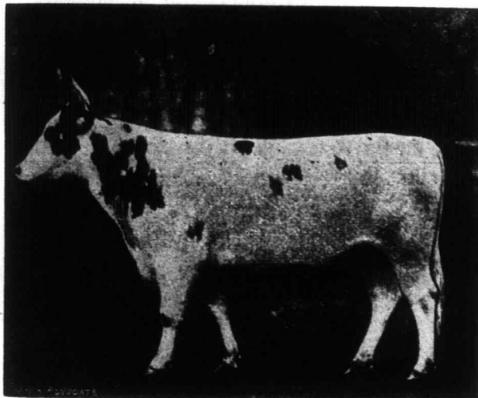
In conclusion, we have no hesitation in affirming that there is no country under the sun where sheep thrive better or are more free from diseases and disabilities than in Canada, and no stock on our farms, taking the years as they come, and considering the cost of production, more profitable.

STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

THE CLYDESDALE AND AYRSHIRE SHOWS.

During the past few weeks the agricultural community here have been chiefly interested in shows. The four great Western shows have been held at Castle Douglas, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, and Ayr, and an opportunity has been afforded for estimating the quality of Clydesdale horses and Ayrshire cattle. With reference to Clydesdales, nothing much that is new can be said. The fea-



AYRSHIRE BULL, KOHINOOR.

Champion at Glasgow, Kilmarnock, and Ayr, in 1899.
BRED BY AND THE PROPERTY OF MR. J. HOWIE,
HILL HOUSE, GALSTON.

ture at all shows has been the success of the produce of Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery's stallion Baron's Pride (9122). He has secured first prizes with his stock in almost all possible classes. He won the family prize at Kilmarnock. As an illustration of the success which has attended the use of this sire, we may mention the female championship at Castle Douglas and Ayr went to his daughter Empress. At Kilmarnock his son Elator secured the male championship, and his daughter, the two-year-old filly Jeannie Deans, won the female championship. At Glasgow the champion in all was his son Casabianca, and the champion female his daughter Lady Victoria. The produce of Baron's Pride have gained all the championships but one at the spring shows, and this by no means exhausts the tale of his successful stock. At Ayr, in competition for Ayr cup, the first prize females all paraded, and of five, four were daughters of Baron's Pride, viz., Mr. Webster's Lady Pride, Mr. Thos. Smith's Empress and Jeannie Deans, and Mr. Guild's Topsy Pride. One of the best of yearlings got by him was exhibited at Glasgow. She is owned by Mr. Henry B. Marshall, and is a typical Clydesdale, standing on short legs, with the best of quality. Another grand yearling is Mr. Guild's Topsy Pride—of a different type, more upstanding, with beautiful action, and there are others after him too numerous to mention. Then a half-sister of Baron's Pride named Lady Raffan, whose sire was the well-known Sir Everard, was first in the brood mare class at Glasgow. She was bred in the north of Scotland, and is undoubtedly one of the best Clydesdales bred in the part of the country for many years. Baron's Pride himself was bred by Messrs. R. & J. Findlay, Springhill, near Glasgow, and gained first prize at the H. & A. S. Show at Aberdeen in 1894. He is a horse with wonderfully

good quality of legs, in this particular being practically invincible.

One of the most interesting ties of the year is between his two daughters, Empress and Lady Victoria. Both were bred by Mr. Wm. Nicholson, Bombie, Kirkcudbright, and the dams are respectively mother and daughter. An interesting fact regarding the dam of Empress is that she was purchased as one of a large number of fillies intended for exportation to Germany. The committee of German experts who came over to select the animals rejected her because she was not rough enough, or, as they expressed it, strong enough for them. The Messrs. Montgomery, who had the contract, were by no means sorry the Germans refused to take this particular filly, and they sold her almost forthwith to Mr. Nicholson. In due time she produced a filly foal by MacGregor, and while the old mare is dam of Empress, the champion at Castle Douglas and Ayr, the younger mare is dam of Lady Victoria, the champion at Glasgow. It is an interesting fact that the most successful exhibitors of Clydesdale females this year are two English gentlemen. The owner of Empress is Mr. Thomas Smith, Blacon Point, Chester. In the final at Ayr, this gentleman owned three of the competitors, viz.: the first prize brood mare, Belle of Fashion; the first prize three-year-old mare, Empress; and the first prize two-year-old filly, Jeannie Deans. The other English gentleman who has been very successful is Mr. Herbert Webster, Morton House, Fencehouses, the owner of Lady Victoria, and also of Lady Pride, the first-prize yeld mare at Ayr. Lady Pride is a great handsome four-year-old dark brown mare, with capital hind legs and great substance. With some she was a favorite for champion honors, but on the whole I think the award made in favor of Empress the more defensible. Lady Pride is perhaps less feminine-like than is popular. She is certainly a magnificent mare, but is just rather masculine in appearance in front, being possibly more like a gelding than a mare. All the same, her kind are exceedingly scarce, and she deserves her victories. Mr. Crawford's Casabianca, the Glasgow premium horse, and the champion at the Glasgow show, is perhaps the weightiest and most powerful looking of all the produce of Baron's Pride. He is a horse of great weight and strength, and we anticipate for him a distinguished career at the stud.

AYRSHIRES AT THE SHOWS.

Amongst the Ayrshires this year, first place has to be given to Mr. Hugh Duncan, Langalchorad, Bute. A few years ago, Mr. Alex. Cross, of Knockdon, who owns one of the finest herds of Ayrshire cattle in the country, won the championship at the Highland with a cow named Beauty of Holehouse. This cow was bred by Mr. Robert Woodburn, Holehouse, Galston, and was a beautiful brown, with very little white intermingled. Mr. Hugh Duncan, who is an enthusiast, was determined to have a bull calf from her, and paid Mr. Cross a stiff price for her bull calf of that year. This bull calf has bred very well indeed for Mr. Duncan; and this year, for a group of cows we question if he could have been beaten. At Bute Show, which was held this week, and where there is keen competition in the three-year-old class, Dr. Duncan simply swept the boards with gets of the Knockdon bull. At Glasgow and Ayr he was also well forward with three-year-old queys after him, and we doubt if any breeder this year could touch Mr. Duncan for a group of that age. Amongst milk cows of an older race, Mr. Robert Sillars, Whiteside, Monkton, secured the championship at Glasgow with Juniper 4th, a cow which won the Ayr Derby last year; and Mr. Hugh Todd, Harperland, Dundonald, exhibited a first-class cow named Nelly IV. in aged class at Ayr, where she beat the Glasgow champion. The Ayr Derby for three-year-old queys is the great event in the Ayrshire world; and this year first prize, and also the championship of the Ayrshire section, were secured by Dr. Wm. Howie, Burnhouses, Galston, with a cow named Drummy II. Mr. Howie inherited a splendid herd from his father, but it appears to us that it has in no way suffered in his hands; indeed, during the past few years the Burnhouses herd, which for a time was not heard much about in the showyards, has recovered itself, and for the past two or three seasons has practically been leading the Ayrshire classes. A brother of Mr. Howie's, Mr. Jas. Howie, of Hillhouse, Kilmarnock, is this year leading in the bull section with a white bull named Kohinoor. This bull secured the championship of the section, both at Glasgow, Kilmarnock, and Ayr. He is a very straight animal, with fine lines, and showing a lot of breeding. Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Barcheskie, Kirkcudbright, as usual is very hard to beat in the female section, especially in queys and stirks. He has several particularly good animals not likely to be excelled in their age. For its area, possibly the Island of Bute contains a larger number of high-class Ayrshires than any other district in Scotland. At the show which was held this week there was an excellent display of dairy stock. Mr. Hugh Duncan, already referred to, was, of course, practically invincible, but several other breeders made for themselves an excellent position. This applies particularly to the Mid-Ascog herd of Messrs. R. & J. McAlister; the Meikle Kilmory herd of their brother, Mr. Jas. McAlister; and the Little Kilmory herd of Mr. Chas. Duncan, brother of Mr. Hugh Duncan. Visitors in search of Ayrshire cattle from the Dominion cannot do better than spend a day on the Island of Bute. Mr. Wylie,