

that a good saddle horse is also a good harness horse, he took his own part between the shafts or against the pole. Unfortunately, however, the converse of the proposition I have laid down does not hold good, and a good harness horse is not only not necessarily a good saddle horse, but is very seldom passable as a saddle horse.

This is really a serious matter and one which, in the hurry to "improve" the old Hackney breed, most breeders have lost sight of. There are no hacks left, or very few. The Hunter misfit may be a hack, but, then again, he may not. He is frequently put to hack's work, and he does it in a way; he may and even does make a good covert hack, but that is a different thing. I have in my mind as I write a hack of the type I should like to see more of. He stands just short of 15 hands, is short legged, with big shoulders well placed—no horse can be a really comfortable ride if his shoulders are badly placed—has a muscular back, beautiful quarters, and is well ribbed. His action is excellent in all his paces, and he walks as a hack should walk.

LOOKER ON.

STOCK

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 today 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 twelve 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.

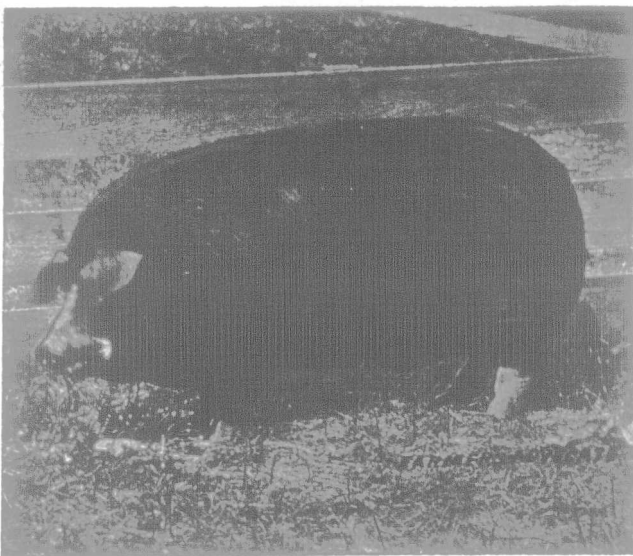
Mr. Durno's relative and namesake, who owns the Jackston herd, also near to Rothie-Norman, beat him for average, but had fewer animals. The Jackston return is £262 10s. of an average for five yearling bulls. Mr. Stewart, Millhills, Crieff, came up well, with £246 8s. for three, and Mr. H. M. S. Mackay, Burgie, 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. 2d. 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 14 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 os. 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 Trojan-Erica 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 upsides 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



A TYPICAL POLAND CHINA HOG

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, fancies 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 41 gs., 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, Stepend, 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. Moyle, 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, Osco, 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."

Notes and Jottings on Two of the Beef Breeds.

Notwithstanding the extreme demand experienced for good Shorthorns last year, there is every reason to believe that the present year will bring quite as great and continuous inquiries, and it seems by the turn things are taking abroad that there is every probability of the Shorthorn being the chief center of attraction for a long time to come. There is every reason to anticipate that just as the Shorthorn outnumbers all other breeds in England and Ireland, so it will be in America. Villages in that country are, it may be said, almost daily growing into towns, and both villages and towns require a good supply of milk, and must have it; and what breed can do this better than the people's cow, as the Shorthorn may be termed?

The second string to the bow is also very important in these newly divided-up holdings—namely, the ability to make beef as well as milk; on this account the calves of this breed surpass those of any other of our milking breeds by a long, long way; and whether retained upon the farm or sold to the occupiers of larger farms where more feeders are required, the young Shorthorn becomes a very valuable asset. Having regard to these points, as well as to the increasing home demand, the Shorthorn appears to be a very safe trump card for a long time to come. It is quite possible, as noted last week, that the boom will cause a great number of inferior bulls to be brought to market, and by this means average prices may be lowered.

Next to the Shorthorn, the Hereford appears to be enjoying the greatest amount of attention from over the water, this breed now being shipped in considerable numbers, and not in the dribbles we have been accustomed to note. It will be remembered that last year one of the prizes for the best herd of dairy cattle offered by the Royal Counties Society was awarded to a herd of this breed, and it is well known that a good Hereford cross is often one of the best dairy animals to be obtained. In an American article this week we read that, as a rule, the Hereford proves a much better nurse than even the Shorthorn. This, however, there is no doubt, is attributable to the quality of the milk and not the quantity. Precisely the same thing is well illustrated in the difference to be seen between calves that are reared from the pail. Those having half the quantity of new milk will be found to keep in much better condition than those on a double quantity of separated.

An old country exchange says: "The West Highlander is an instance of richness of milk being of immense benefit to a calf as compared with that of poorer quality. No breed of cattle, except possibly the Channel Island breeds, yield milk of anything like the richness at that from West Highlanders. It is very seldom that these cattle are milked by man in England, but in a few isolated cases where this has occurred the quality of the milk and cream are of the very best. Also, when on good pasture, Highlanders nurse their offspring very well."

Freshen the winter calved cow with plenty of bran and oat chop until grass time.