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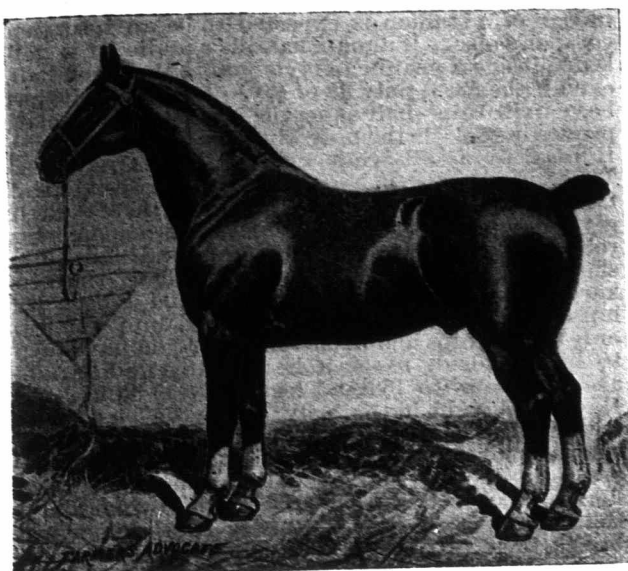
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Our Scottish Letter.

THE BULL SALES AND STALLION SHOWS.

During the past few weeks the principal interest of stock owners in this country has been concentrated on the bull sales and the spring horse shows in the South. The principal centers of the bull sales in Scotland are Perth, Aberdeen, Inverness, Oban, and Castle Douglas. The Perth, Aberdeen and Inverness sales are chiefly confined to Short-horn and Aberdeen-Angus cattle. Oban is the head center of the Highland breed, and Castle Douglas is, of course, the capital of Galloway. The Castle Douglas sale has not taken place at time of writing but all the other sales are over, and stock breeders



HACKNEY STALLION, ROSADOR 4964.
THE PROPERTY OF MR. F. W. BUTTLE, RILLINGTON, YORK-
SHIRE. WINNER OF CHAMPION PRIZE 1899 AND 1897,
AND RESERVE FOR CHAMPION 1898, LONDON
HACKNEY SHOW.

in this country have more than good reason to be satisfied with the result. The first important sale was that of Aberdeen-Angus bulls at Perth, conducted by the great firm of Macdonald, Fraser & Co. (Ltd.), at which 256 bulls made an average of £31 16s. 4d., the best average made at any sale since 1884, which is equivalent to saying the best average ever made at one of the Perth bull sales. On the following day breeders were engaged at Aberdeen, where 236 bulls made an average of £25 14s. 8d. At a much smaller sale, held further north, at Turriff, 15 bulls of the same breed made £29 8s. each. Some extraordinary prices were made for bulls at the Perth sale, and the judges and the public were by no means at one in regard to the value of the animals. Sir George Macpherson Grant had the remarkable average of £88 17s. 3d. for 8 bulls, neither of which was in the first four in the prize list. He got the highest price of the sale (190 guineas) for a bull named Rosador (15006), the purchaser of which was the new laird of Ardross in Ross-shire; and the scarcely less notable price of 160 guineas for another bull called Kilgraston (15610), placed sixth by the judges, and the purchaser of which was Mr. Whitburn, all the way from Kent, in the south of Eng-land. Still another Ballindalloch bull made 100 guineas, and, as we have said, the average for 8 was the extraordinary figure of well-nigh £90. A comparatively new breeder, Mr. Willsber, of Pit-pointee, in Forfarshire, got 150 guineas for his fourth prize bull Hengist of Pitpointee; and Lord Strathmore, whose herd has acquired quite an enviable distinction within recent years, and last year topped the sale, got 100 guineas for a bull named Meridian (15473), who was unplaced by the judges. The first prize bull in the older class, Jack the Rover of Norlich, bred by Mr. Robert Cran, Norlich, Aberdeenshire, was sold to Mr. Greenfield, from Essex, for 105 guineas. The Aberdeen-Angus breed has fairly topped the bull sales this year, and there can be no doubt that breeders in this country are in much better heart than they have been for some time. At the Aberdeen sale such high prices were not realized, but the sale was wonderfully steady throughout, as is evidenced by the large number of bulls sold and the high average which they made.

One week later Shorthorn sales at Perth and Aberdeen took place, and a splendid trade was again the rule of the day; nevertheless, the averages of the "Doddies" were not reached. At Perth, Messrs. Macdonald, Fraser & Co. sold 147 bulls at an average of £27 17s. 9d., and at Aberdeen Mr. Moir sold 179 bulls at an average of £24 13s. 2d. The highest price for a Shorthorn was given by Mr. Donald McLennan, Buenos Ayres, for the first prize Lovat bull at Perth. His figure was 155 guineas. Lord Lovat's herd took the same place amongst the Shorthorns as Sir George Macpherson Grant took amongst the Aberdeen-Angus, his lordship's average for 4 bulls being £73 10s. A young breeder named Mr. John Grainger, from Pitcur, Coupar Angus, had also a good average, making £65 12s. 6d. each for 2 bulls. Trade was exceedingly good for Shorthorns, but not equal to the demand for Aberdeen-Angus. At the Aberdeen sale the highest average was made by Mr. Crombie, of Woodend (a near relative, I believe, of the late Amos Cruickshank), who got £84 apiece for two

well-bred bulls. Otherwise the sale was very steady, and one good feature of the whole season in regard to those great beef breeds has been the uniform quality of the stock. There are fewer weeds offered amongst bulls than was the case on some previous occasions. The Inverness sale takes in both breeds on one day, and here also the Polled bulls had the better of the Shorthorns, the average for 79 of the blacks being £27 2s. 3d., and for 68 of Shorthorns £24 13s. 7d. Another sale at which good prices are usually realized is held at Penrith, where Mr. John Thornton sold 34 Shorthorn bulls at an average of £32 11s. These are more of the English type than the bulls sold in the North, and this average shows that there is still a good market for the Booth and Bates combination. The same fact is brought out by the results at the Birmingham sale, where Mr. McLennan again paid the top price (this time 200 guineas) for a bull named Extinction, bred by Mr. Atkinson, of Milnthorpe, Westmoreland. Another high price was 140 guineas, paid for Lavender Lad, also by a foreign buyer. The lowest price at this sale was 40 guineas—a sufficient indication of high quality of the bulls sold.

At Oban sale Highlanders had their innings, and although the sale was lively and the demand steady, there was a lack of the sensational bidding which characterized the sale of 1888. Still, an average of £25 for two-year-olds and £29 for stirks was very good business. One breeder, Mr. Wm. McGillivray, Garbole, Inverness-shire, got the splendid price of £160 for two bull stirks, one making £79 and the other £81. These were respectively first and second in their class, a cheaper bull taking first prize. In view of these results, Galloway breeders are entitled to anticipate lively trade at their bull sale on the 16th inst. They always come a little behind the others, but the remarkable success which has attended the use of Galloway bulls in the West of Ireland under the auspices of Congested District Boards is certain this year to give a filling to them which will be altogether in favor of breeders in Scotland. There can be no doubt that a change is gradually coming over those who cater for the fat market. Once a day it was the breeds that would fatten quickest; now the object is being kept in view, and butchers insist on having lean meat, and breeds like the Galloway and the High-lander will certainly be in greater favor than they were at one time. It is remarkable how many English feeders, especially those who have large parks, favor those two breeds, and the success of Galloway bulls for crossing on the common cattle of the West of Ireland has received acknowledgment in parliamentary papers. Altogether, the cattle-breeding industry is in a much more whole-some condition than it has been for some years.

THE SHIRE AND HACKNEY SHOWS.

In my last letter I gave some particulars regarding a Glasgow stallion show of Clydesdales. During the past two weeks, London Shire horse and Hackney horse shows have been held, and bear renewed testimony to activity prevailing amongst horse breeders generally. The Shire Horse Show was an unqualified success, and it is impossible to withhold a mead of admiration from the Shire Horse Society of the undoubted results which have followed its efforts. When it began operations in 1880 it had an unsound breed, clearly attested by the results of veterinary examination at the spring show. It faced the situation manfully, insisted on rigid veterinary inspection, and the result is to-day seen in the great improvement which has taken place in the breed in this respect. At the same time, there is still great headway to be made before it can be pronounced by a long way as sound in feet and limbs as the Clydesdale. The champion horse of this year is again Buscot Harold, which last year secured the same honors; and the champion mare is the well-known Dunsmore Gloaming, also a daughter of renowned Harold, the senior stud horse at Colwich, in Derbyshire.

This week the Hackney show is engaging the attention of a large number of Scottish breeders, and the final results have proved highly satisfactory to those who have been pushing the breeding of Hackneys in this country. One of the most spirited supporters of the breed is Mr. Alex. Morton, of Gowanbank, Darvel. He showed four animals in London, and took first prize with his brood mare Cicely (5739), which in 1893 was the champion of the show; second prize in the aged stallion class with a very handsome horse of his own breeding, named Glengolan (5377); fourth in the selling class with another horse of his own breeding, named Duke of Denmark; and fourth in class for three-year-old fillies with a beautiful mare named Harmony, also bred by himself, and, like Glengolan, got by his stud horse Donald Grant (1473). Another Scotch-bred Hackney named Gold Flash, now owned by Sir Gilbert Greenall, Bart., and bred by Mr. Wm. Scott, at Carlisle, in Lanark-shire, gained first prize in the four-year-old class. She is a beauty, and last year, when owned by Mr. Morton, stood second to another Scotch filly, named Vivandiere, bred and owned by the President of the Hackney Horse Society for this year, Mr. Charles E. Galbraith, Terregleston, Dumfries. On this occasion the tables have been turned, and Gold Flash was placed first and Vivandiere second. Another Scotch breeder who has done very well this year is Mr. J. E. Stoddart, of Aid Calder, who in his first appearance as an exhibitor at the London show gained fourth prize in the two-year-old class with a lovely filly of his own breeding,

named Lady Patricia. Mr. David Mitchell, of Millfield, Polmont, has also taken a number of tickets with animals bred by himself, and Mr. Galbraith, besides winning second with Vivandiere, took fourth in the largest class of brood mares with Queen of the South, and first in the class for barren mares with Danish Lady. Mr. Alex. Gemmell, Ayr, who is very fond of a real good Hackney, was also amongst those whose stock was named at this show. The male championship was a stand-up fight between Mr. Battle's Rosador, which in 1897 was champion of the show and in 1898 reserve champion, and Sir Walter Gilbey's Royal Danegelt, which in 1897 was reserve champion and in 1898 champion. This year three judges reverted to the 1897 form, and placed Rosador first and Royal Danegelt second. The female championship went to Mr. Waterhouse for a magnificent mare of the harness type, named Queen of the South, own sister to Mr. Galbraith's Queen of the West, and the reserve champion was a mare which up to a few months ago was owned by Mr. Waterhouse—Oily Surprise. She is now owned by Mr. Harry Livezey, Rotherfield, Sussex, who also on the afternoon of the day which decided the championship purchased Queen of the South from Mr. Waterhouse. The interesting feature of this show was what is called the produce class, in which groups of three animals got by the same sire, in two divisions, of male and female, compete for champion honors. The winning sire for stallions was Mr. Usher's horse Gentleman John (3624), Garton Duke of Connaught (3000) standing second, and Ganymede (2700) third. For three mares got by one sire, Garton Duke of Connaught won hands down. He was sire of the champion Queen of the South, the junior champion, Miss Terry, and the first prize mare in another class, named Garton Birthday. Second to him stood Rosador, with three young daughters; and third Goldfinder 6th (1791), the sire of Gold Flash and other good animals. Gold Finder 6th was picked up by Mr. Morton at an auction sale in London some years ago for something like 100 guineas. He used him for two or three seasons in Scotland, in which he got the best Hackney stock we have ever had here, and then sold him to Sir Gilbert Greenall for 3,000 guineas. He is undoubtedly one of the best breeding Hackney sires in England, but this year the champion sire is without question Garton Duke of Connaught. "SCOTLAND YET."

Hot Feed Not Good for Pigs.

I am very much interested in your paper. I think it is just what the farmers need to help them exchange ideas and learn from one another's experience. I noticed in a late issue H. Hill's inquiry on pigs going lame being fed on boiled roots. I have had some experience in boiled feed for pigs, and think there is nothing gained by boiling feed, as I find pigs won't stand feed the least bit too warm. I have seen feed fed to pigs so warm that they could not eat it. I have known them to get the piles and die from hot feed. I have also seen them run back from the trough after eating a few mouthfuls and fall down and stiffen out and die at once. If warm feed is fed great care should be taken not to feed it above 60 degrees. I pulp my roots and mix the chop with them, and like the plan well.

Huron Co., Ont.

FRANK O'BRIEN.



HACKNEY STALLION, ROYAL DANEGELT 5785.
THE PROPERTY OF SIR WALTER GILBEY, BART., ELSBENHAM
HALL, ESSEX. CHAMPION IN 1898, AND RESERVE FOR
CHAMPION IN 1899, LONDON HACKNEY SHOW.

The winter is prolonging its stay, considerable quantities of snow having recently fallen in nearly all the Provinces of the Dominion, so that in most sections farmers are enjoying the use of good sleighing in the last days of March and are well pleased to have their crops of wheat and clover protected by a blanket of the beautiful, which is so much more favorable than to have them exposed to the cold winds and alternate freezings and thawings which usually prevail at this season.