

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS.

PERTH SALE OF ABERDEEN-ANGUS BULLS.

LARGE COMPANY OF BUYERS.

RECORD PRICE FOR A BULL.

The second day of the Perth show and sale of Aberdeen-Angus cattle was looked forward to with some misgiving by some of those who had the misfortune to be a little out of the fashion with their heifers on the Tuesday. In the majority of cases, however, a fairly hopeful view of the situation was taken by the owners of strong, useful animals, owing to the pretty good outlook in the crossing trade of the country in general and the known demand from Ireland. Owners of high-class Ericas had rarely been in better spirits. Yesterday morning a very large crowd was forward, including, as a matter of course, the enthusiasts who witnessed the judging and selling on Tuesday, and many new faces from Ireland and the crossing ranks of Scotland. Taken all through, the day was one for "Erica" men, and for owners of big fleshy animals with a dash of breeding and character. Owners of well-bred but comparatively small bulls did not by any means take extravagant prices out of the ring-side in every instance. Still the majority of well-known breeders who placed their stocks before the public in good order had no reason to complain of competition, especially as the day wore on, for the ring-side wakened up to some purpose when the older section of yearling bulls had a fair start. The main result was an increase on the general average, and a satisfactory day for the most capable men, the outcome being all the more to the credit of the old patrons, as the Irish contingent practically refrained from bidding owing to the "slating" which the polls have been receiving from dairymen in the West. The breath of ill-wind from Ireland will no doubt be greatly in favour of the short-horn interest next week.

Mr Paton, who started to sell promptly at nine o'clock, and who was relieved shortly after mid-day for an hour by Mr M'Lellan, had a splendid company to begin with, and before the sale had proceeded for an hour every available corner within the mart was crowded. The great event of the day was the breaking of all previous records in price by Sir George Macpherson Grant with his magnificent first prize-winner in the older class—Ebbro. With a start of 200 guineas from Colonel M'Inroy, Ebbro was raised up to the 400 in little more than a minute by a crowd of bids from various parts of the ring. The contest then narrowed down to bid about from Mr George Sinclair, Lord Rosebery's manager, and Mr A. D. Macrae, Ruthven, until at 480 guineas, the highest figure ever made for an animal of the breed in any public sale ring of this country, it was knocked down to Lord Rosebery. The second prize-winner, belonging to Lord Strathmore, had a very good reception in the ring, and was taken out by the Careston herd at 100 guineas, Mr Murray, Kilcoy, being the runner-up. Colonel Smith Grant's third prize bull sold very well, considering that he was not quite the type for the majority of breeders, his figure to Sir Leonard Lyell being 58 guineas. For Sir George Macpherson Grant's fourth prize bull Jaalin, of the Jilt family, competition was fairly good, but he was withdrawn at 110 guineas. For the Glamis commended bull in the older class 38 guineas was the result, the buyer being Mr Hendry, Gartmore.

In the younger class Mr George Bruce's massive winner of first prize was started at 133 guineas by Mr Alexander M'Laren, who was opposed in the final by Mr Mitchell, Wryley Grove. The Ballindalloch and prize bull fetched the bids very freely on account of his breeding, and was taken out at the handsome figure of 240 guineas to Mr Grant, Boat of Garten, who had a determined opponent in Mr M'Conachie, Ardoch. Sir George's third prize bull, a more perfect specimen, if not quite so purely in the fashion, was run up to 230 guineas, at which figure he was taken by Colonel Smith Grant, Auchorachan. Mr Kennedy of Doonholm being the runner-up. Colonel M'Inroy's fourth prize bull, a fine thick calf, was taken quite cheap at 25 guineas by Mr Whyte for Ireland, and Mr M'Laren's pretty little commended bull of the most fashionable breeding was withdrawn at 150 guineas, Mr R. W. Hudson's agent being the final bidder. Mr Johnston of Sands only sold one bull, but it secured the nice figure of 195 guineas from Mr Kerr, Harviestoun, while Mr Ferguson, Newcastle, gave 90 guineas for a bull belonging to Colonel Smith Grant, Auchorachan. Mr Johnston of Sands gave 70 guineas for one belonging to Mr Kerr; Sir J. R. Gladstone, 72 guineas for one of Mr Bruce's, Tochnical. Mr Nisbet, Ireland, gave 160 guineas for another of the Auchorachan herd, while 84 guineas was the figure given for one belonging to Mr M'Conachie, Ardoch.

The following were the averages—

Table with columns for 1903 and 1902, listing various bulls and their prices. Includes entries like 'His Majesty King Edward VII.', 'Earl of Airlie, Cortachy Castle', 'Mr J. Allan, Ballintomb', etc.

Large table listing property owners and their animals, including names like 'Property of Mr J. Allan, Ballintomb', 'Reformer—Mr Martin, Kirriemuir', 'Magnet of Polowick—Mr Ballingall, Blair-Drummond', etc.

Table listing property owners and their animals, including names like 'Property of the Earl of Strathmore', 'Mine Host—Mr Pearson, Aohlat', 'Buskin—Mr Adamson, Careston Castle', etc.

Property of the Earl of Strathmore... following is the sale... of His Majesty King Edward VII...