

tute a strong Board. Their subordinate officials include several gentlemen who were also members of these commissions, notably, William Barber, of Terenan, who is rapidly taking high rank as an arbiter in agricultural questions; A. M. Prain, who is understood to be an expert in poultry matters; and James Dunlop, Hallhouse, Fenwick, who is an excellent judge of Ayrshire cattle and Border Leicester sheep, and a resolute pioneer of the Milk Record movement among Ayrshire cattle-breeders, and the development of the commercial value of Ayrshires. We are also getting a Scottish Land Court, and, although meanwhile its duties are restricted to holdings 50 acres in extent and under, the principle of a Land Court has been embodied in legislation of Great Britain, and there will doubtless be developments along that line. Canadian readers will observe from these things that, agriculturally, the Old Country is on the move. Invitations have also been issued to Candidates for the vacant office of Secretary of the Highland and Agricultural Society. James Macdonald, who has filled that office with great distinction for twenty years, has been compelled, on account of ill-health, to resign. Where his successor may be found is at present a moot point. Among candidates whose names have reached the public, there is none of such outstanding merit as to make the appointment a certainty.

GOOD PRICES FOR BULLS.

Turning to other matters, we have had a remarkably successful series of spring bull sales. There has been an improved demand for the two leading breeds, the Shorthorn and the Aberdeen-Angus, and notably high individual prices and improved averages have been recorded. J. D. McGregor, Brandon, Man., did a good deal to make the Aberdeen-Angus trade lively. He operated at Perth to useful purpose. The highest price for females was £231, and the highest prices for bulls were £278 5s., £241 10s., £220 10s., and £199 10s. The highest herd average stood at the credit of Ballindalloch, which had £130 0s. 6d. for six bulls; Doonholm, which had £119 14s. for three, and Harviestoun, which had £112 10s. 6d. for six; 499 yearling bulls made the splendid average of £31 16s. 4d., or a rise on last year's figure of about £3 per head. These figures were, however, eclipsed by those recorded for Shorthorns in the following week. Lord Lovat got £924 for Broadhooks Cardinal, and the Earl of Moray got £819 for Doune Regent. Both of these were bought for the Argentine. The first-prize bull, Maurice of Cluny, was also bought for the Argentine, his price being £577 10s., and another from the same herd, Max of Cluny, went to William Duthie, of Collynie, at £483. The average price of the Cluny cattle first-prize group of three was £369 12s. The best averages at the sale were these: Doune Lodge, for three, £290 17s.; Beaufort Castle, for four, £252 15s. 9d.; Cluny Castle, for seven, £175 7s.; Polmaise, for two, £144 7s. 6d.; Jackstoun, for three, £141 18s.; and Dunglass, for six, £125 13s. Altogether, 387 Shorthorn bulls made an average of £45 13s. 1d., an advance on the figure for 1911 of £6 3s.

Our other two breeds do not come within measurable distance of these figures. The best price made by a Galloway bull was 75 gs., or £78 15s., and the best price made by a Highland bull was £67, the average for seventy head of these being £23 5s. 1d. The difference between the early-maturing breeds and those which are harder to ripen for the butcher is thus very marked. Good bulls are making plenty of money this year, the main reason being, perhaps, the fact that beef is selling well, and there is a general feeling that we are in for a range of higher prices than were experienced during the thirty years preceding 1910.

HORSE MATTERS.

Horse business is very healthy. The Clydesdale export trade continues to be very lively, and a trio of splendid mares were shipped last week to the Colony Farm, Coquitlam, B. C. These are unquestionably the best Clydesdale mares ever shipped to Canada. All three have been champion mares at the best shows in Scotland. The trio are Nerissa 30910, a Cawdor Cup winner, Blossom of Newhouse 19164, and her own sister, Peggy Pride 21641, the Royal champion mare of 1911. All three are by Baron's Prince 0422, and it is the earnest desire of everyone here that they may have a safe journey to the far Pacific Coast and do a world of good to the horse industry of Columbia.

The London Horse Show, which was over the Shire Horse Show, was a success as an exhibition. Some of the exhibitors were able to obtain a better price for their horses than has come their way in previous years. The mares in their annual re-sale, however, did not do as well as in 1911. The average price for Shires in 1911 was little over £100, but the export trade in Clydesdales was 521, as compared with 499 in 1911. The champion stallion this year was Devonshire's Warton Draught, a great, weighty horse, but much

the legs for the Canadian export trade. Indeed, the impression made upon us this year by the Shire Horse Show, which we had not visited for several years, was that the tendency to travel in the Clydesdale direction of cleaner limbs and harder, flintier bone has been checked, and that there is a distinct tendency to revert to the older type of hairy-legged, soft-boned horses. Dunsmore Chessie, the champion mare, is a typical chestnut Shire. She has many good points, and well deserved her victory.

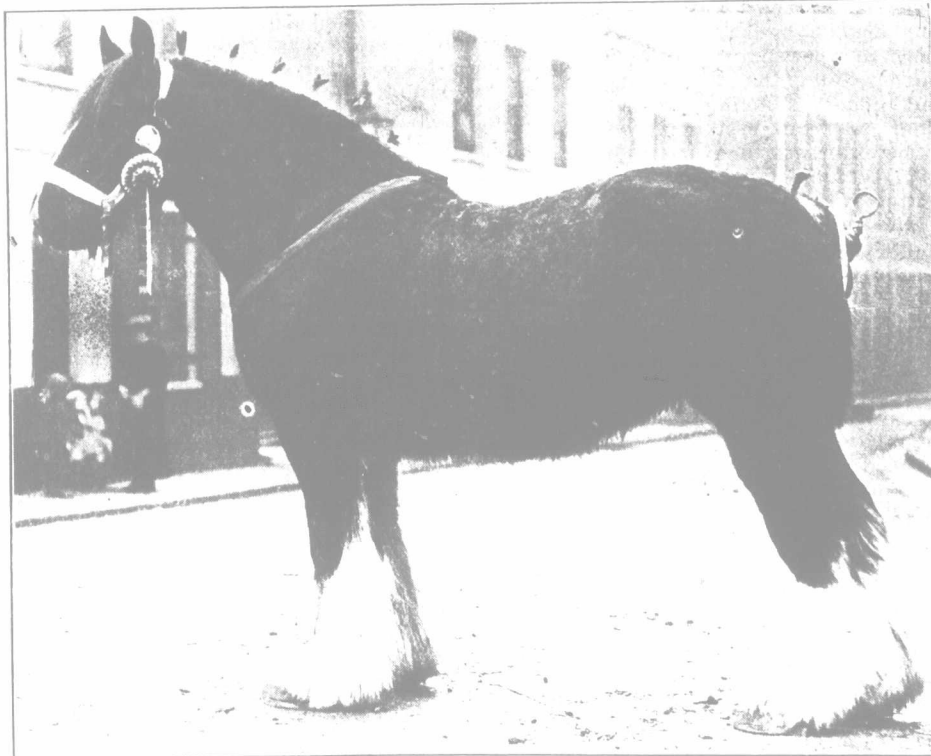
The Hackney Show brought out nothing new. The championship in all classes and sections went to the same animals as in 1911. The Mathias horse, King's Proctor, was champion stallion; Beckingham Lady Grace was champion mare, and the same ponies were champions as in 1911. In the produce groups, the champion sire alike for horses in harness and horses in the breeding classes was Polonius. He scored very heavily. He and Mathias, as is generally known, are sons of the celebrated London champion mare Ophelia, certainly the most wonderful mare for combined merit and breeding success which the Hackney breed has ever produced. The champion pony sire was easily Fireboy, which, for the third year in succession, won the first prize as the sire of the best group of three ponies. He is now owned by Mr. S. Miller, Gallowhill, Paisley; and as Mathias also finds his home in Scotland, we have a big share of the credit for breeding the best Hackney horses and ponies.

"SCOTLAND YET."

HORSES.

A report in Rider and Driver, from the New York Sun, cites a case where, with equal distances to travel, a fire engine drawn by three horses, in New York City, beat a new automobile engine to a fire by a block and a half, while the automobile tender was still a block behind. Both companies knew they had a race, and the winning of the horses is significant. The horse is generally considered the most reliable, and, with such speed demonstrations, should have little trouble in retaining a place on the fire brigades of the large cities.

The horse at work requires a diet richer in protein than the animal on a maintenance ration, and thus a narrower nutritive ratio in the ration



Dunsmore Chessie (60183).

Sire, dark chestnut, foaled 1908. First and champion female at London, England, Shire Show, 1912. Sire Dunsmore Raider.

is necessary, which is accomplished by adding more grain and lessening the roughage in the daily feed. The working horse must also get more non-nitrogenous material than when he was at rest, in order to prevent the using of too much of the body fat to provide the necessary energy, which, if continued, cannot but emaciate the animal. Work means an increase in feed given, and in proportion to the amount of labor required, so should the ration be increased, to commence the increase is not the mares, but some weeks before, so as to accustom the horses to the change.

It is impossible to avoid a certain amount of waste in the food required of the digestive organs, and a concentrated ration is necessary to make up for this.

the work required of the digestive tract to prepare the food for assimilation. Here is a good reason for increasing the grain ration to the horses during heavy spring work. All their energy is required for work outside the body, and as little as possible should be used in the work of digestion. Eliminate, as far as possible, the indigestible, coarse, fibrous materials from the ration. The smaller the quantity of this material in the feed, the less the work of digestion. This must be considered at this season. We cannot, however, be governed in our feeding by this fact exclusively, because, as a general rule, a stated amount of digestible matter can be obtained, at less expense, from the coarser fodders, like hay; but, during strenuous work, when the horse has scarcely time to properly masticate and digest his feed before being rushed back to the field, increasing the grain ration and decreasing the roughage fed, seems to be the logical proceeding.

Aid to Thoroughbred Stallions.

The Federal Government, through the Live-stock Commissioner and Veterinary Director-General, announces that the policy initiated in 1911 by the Department of Agriculture, with reference to the granting of aid, under certain conditions, to the owners of Thoroughbred stallions, is generally meeting with approval, and is accomplishing, in part, at least, the objects sought when the policy was undertaken. Amongst other things, owing to the rigid conditions imposed, it is encouraging those maintaining really high-class horses, and is serving to organize the system of breeding followed in different communities where Thoroughbred stallions are located. The stimulus given, in this manner, to the use of Thoroughbred blood will, it is believed, lead to an improvement in the light-horse stock of the country. Thoroughbred stallions, if really good individuals, may be expected to exert such an influence in the development of Canadian horses for saddle and harness use, as is greatly needed and greatly to be desired. The premium placed upon quality, soundness and prepotency, through the grants awarded by the Department, is serving to check the use of unsuitable sires, and is tending to conserve a type of Thoroughbred, the utility of which is beyond question.

While, as perhaps should be stated, it is not the intention of the Department to encourage the breeding of Thoroughbred horses or to develop a

type in light horses approximating closely to that of the Thoroughbred, there is no question but that a strong infusion of Thoroughbred blood in the light-legged mares of the country will be of inestimable value in improving the quality of the stock got from them by stallions of the various light-harness breeds.

Believing himself to be justified, therefore, in further prosecuting the policy begun last year, the Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture, has authorized the continuance of the grant, to be available for all Thoroughbred stallions standing for public service during the season of 1912 which comply with the conditions imposed by the Department. The conditions under which assistance will be given are as follows:

1. All horses on account of which aid is given by the Department must be registered in the Thoroughbred Studbook of the Canadian National Live-stock Records.
2. Horses shall be of good size, quality and conformation, and shall be free from all hereditary unsoundness; these conditions to be insured by submission annually to a thorough, careful examination either at the hands of the Veterinary Director-General or such other members of the Veterinary Staff of the Department, or other persons as the Minister may from time to time appoint for this purpose.
3. Horses so approved shall be duly and publicly advertised to stand for service of mares,