

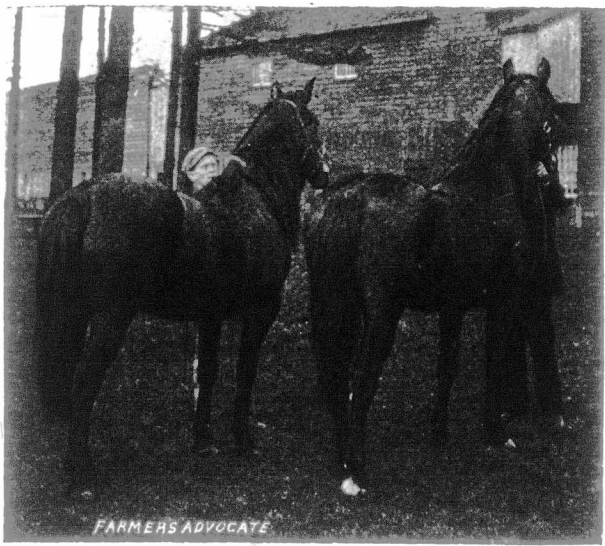
## STOCK.

## Cull Closely or Lose Money!

[FROM OUR MANITOBA AND WESTERN EDITION.]

The doctrine of live-stock improvement needs many, many more adherents and followers than it numbers at present, judged from the excerpt below, taken from the N. B. *Agriculturist*:

"The folly of bringing out as entire stock male animals of second-rate merit, even though they be



ARTILLERY HORSES.

Selected by Lt.-Col. Dent, at London, Ont., for the British Army. Sire, Shire stallion. Dams, roadster mares. Height, about 15.3 hands. Weight, about 1,200 lbs. Price, \$280, the pair.

fully pedigreed, is well exemplified by the experience of a West Fifeshire occupying proprietor. At a recent bull sale this gentleman, who is a great believer in the weigh bridge as a means of ascertaining the value of cattle, bought two bull stirks, one a Polled Angus and the other a Shorthorn. For the former, the price paid worked out to 24s. 6d. per live cwt., and for the Shorthorn, the price worked out at only 18s. per live cwt. Had the same animals been brought out as steers, they would probably have realized at least 6s. per live cwt. more than they did. They were bought for the purpose of being steered and fed along with Irish stirks which had been bought at 30s. per live cwt. A good many of the other bulls sold at the same sale were picked up by an enterprising West Lothian feeder at prices ranging up to 27s. 6d. per live cwt. These are not isolated cases, for, at the recent Shorthorn bull sale at Perth, quite a number of fully pedigreed yearling bulls were sold at prices under 10 guineas each, and one enterprising feeder, whom the people of Perthshire have delighted to honor, bought a lot of pedigreed yearling bulls at an average of 8 guineas each, as being the cheapest 'stores' he could buy. No breeder who understands his business will use for breeding purposes sires of second- or third-rate merit, and the result is that male animals of that sort have to be sold at less than the price of ordinary stores, their 'lang pedigree' counting for nothing when individual merit is conspicuous by its absence."

As might be expected, if the Old Countryman is such a flagrant offender, what can we expect of the Canadian breeder? If the stockers recently brought into Manitoba from the East, en route for the ranges, are a sample of Ontario live stock, to what a pass have things come in live-stock breeding away down East. Miserable misfits, lath-like and chuckle-headed, of various parentages, in which the dairy bull has evidently had a hand, they are foredoomed to be failures as producers of high-quality beef. Cannors they may make, but the results from such will barely pay the transportation charges. Dwarfed from birth, imperfectly nourished on whey or skim milk, it is doubtful if the little Eastern runts will show any benefit from the nutritious grass of the Western hills. A few years ago Texas steers were a byword among cattlemen; to-day, owing to the persistent use of bulls of good individuality, procured sometimes at what seemed at the time high prices, the Texas product holds its own with the best. The investor in these dairy-bred runts is certain to lose money on his investment, and it may be the means of putting him permanently out of the business. Trade once had and then lost is hard to regain, so that to our Western brother we say, "Eschew the dairy-bred Eastern stocker as you would the evil one!" The poor stocker can be bought far more cheaply than the good one, but it will not return anything like the profit of the well-bred animal of correct beef type. Manitoba has at the present time a good stocker trade with the West and South, and while the finishing of the product is to be commended and preferred, no effort must be spared to keep up the quality of our stockers, so that "what we have we'll hold." To keep up that quality, only the best bulls must be used by the farmers. Pure-bred bulls of the good beef type can be had at prices ranging from \$100 to \$150, and will undoubtedly prove a good investment. The breeder of pure-breds will need to be relentless in his culling, as he is the fount of live-stock improvement. Once allow the spring to become befouled, the stream is

bound to be impure. Disastrous results are bound to follow if the breeder of pedigreed stock lets his culls go forth to perpetuate their kind. Breed from the best, and from them only.

## Our Scottish Letter.

The show season is on us in full force, and the greatest of the west country events—that at Ayr—is now a thing of the past. Besides, two excellent county shows have been held, at Balloch and Rothesay, for the counties of Dumbarton and Bute, respectively, and we have quite a good time in other directions. A notable sale of Ayrshires has taken place in Dumfriesshire, where no fewer than 118 head from the very old herd of Tower, Sanquhar, owned by the representatives of the late Mr. Hyslop, were brought to the hammer, and the useful average of £11 1s. 7d. was realized. The 38 cows made an average of £15 16s. 5d. The gratifying feature of the show season has been the scale and commercial dairying qualities of the cattle exhibited. We have clearly got away from the miserable period of small-teated, weak-framed cows, into the time of big, good, roomy, commercial cattle, such as anyone might be proud to have in his byre. The champion at Ayr was a great five-year-old cow named Queen of Hillhouse, bred and owned by Mr. John Drennan, Hillhouse, Galston. This magnificent cow was first last year as cow in milk, and only missed the championship. This year there is nothing to touch her, and it is noteworthy at the Dumbarton Show the best animal on the ground was a cow bred by Mr. Drennan, and very much after the same stamp as Queen. The Bute champion cow, Lady Finlay of Ardyne, owned by Mr. John McAlister, Ardyne, Toward, Argyllshire, was second at Ayr in her class to Queen of Hillhouse, and runs her close enough. She is a large-framed, good cow, with tight vessel and commercial teats. Another grand cow of the year is the leading winner in the cow-in-calf class, Mr. Wm. Howie's White Rose II. of Burnhouses, also in Galston parish. She was champion at the Highland last year, and first this year at Kilmarnock, Galston, Ayr, and Glasgow. Up to plenty size, with a splendid outline and great frame, this is the kind of cow the breed wants. The Ayr Derby, in which over 50 three-year-old queys (entered when they are calves) compete, is the great contest of the breed, and the quality of the exhibits seen in it is generally regarded as a good index to the state of the breed as a whole. This year's Derby was regarded as a good average. There have been some better, and there have also been many worse, but amongst the prizewinners this year were several very notable animals. Mr. Wm. Howie won with a white quey named Gipsy III., and Messrs. A. & W. Keir, Old Graitney, Greta, the winners last year with Senorita, were second with Dewdrop I. The favorite, however, outside, was third—Mr. Blackwood's Bright Lady, from Rottenrow, Hurlford. This quey is got by a bull named Prince Alexander, which bred grand stock. He is sire of several prizewinners, and leaves his stock with good tight vessels, commercial teats, and a frame which can carry the vessel. Bright Lady was placed first at Galston, four days after Ayr, with Gipsy III. second. She has been purchased by Mr. James Kilpatrick, Craigie Mains, Craigie, who is determined to have as good Ayrshires as he has Clydesdales. One of the sights of Ayr Show was what is called the Parish competition. Five females are shown in one group out of each parish, and this year Craigie parish won, the group being composed of five three-year-olds. Three of them were owned by Messrs. M. & A. Hunter, Adamton, Craigie, and two by Mr. Blackwood. The Adamton three were by a noted bull, Flora's Chief, whose dam was the invincible cow, Flora of Burnhouses, and the other two were by Prince Alexander. This group of three-year-olds beat Mr. Drennan's five, which included the champion cow, Queen, and were placed third, the intervening group being Mr. Wm. Howie's, from the same parish, Galston. It included White Rose II., Gipsy III., and other three. Mr. Howie bred another great quey, named Mary II. of Burnhouses, which he sold before the shows to Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Barcheskie, for £100. She was first at Castle Douglas, Kilmarnock, and Glasgow, but was beaten at Ayr, standing fourth in the Derby, and at Galston also standing back. She is uncald, and has been sold at a profit to Dr. Douglas, M. P. She will be calved in good time for the Royal and the Highland, and will take some beating then. Mr. James Howie, Hillhouse, Galston, is the leading exhibitor this year with bulls, his two-year-old, Not Likely, being the best of his age and not easily turned by animals of any age.

Bute has long been famous for its Ayrshires, and good cattle were on exhibition this year. The chief

exhibitors are three brothers: Mr. James McAlister, Meikle-Kilmony; Mr. Robert McAlister, Midascog, and Mr. John McAlister, Ardyne, Toward, across the water from Bute; also other two brothers: Mr. Hugh Duncan, Laugalchorad, and Mr. Charles Duncan, Little-Kilmony. The cattle put into the ring by these gentlemen would take a deal of beating, and no one has exhausted the Ayrshire breeding area who does not visit Bute. The best group at the Dumbartonshire Show was owned by Captain Fergusson-Buchanan, of Auchentorlie, who has just returned from the front. He is an enthusiast in agriculture.

Glasgow has got its great twentieth century exhibition opened, and, judging by the first week, it is going to be a great and notable success. One of the best features in it is the Canadian building, in which are displayed all that is best worthy of imitation in the industry of the Dominion. The Russian building is a first-class affair, and its contents are a revelation. The dream that Russia is a barbarous country, in which nothing modern is to be found, may be safely laid to rest after this display. The building itself is a splendid one, and it and the Canadian quite easily take the lead for equipment and adornment. The Agricultural Hall contains exhibits of much interest to agriculture, especially the models of the great works, in Chili, of the Nitrate Company, the Stassfurt Potash Syndicate in Germany, and the Sulphate of Ammonia Syndicate. The buildings designated the Model Farm are, perhaps, not so much a model farm as a well-laid-out model of what is usually seen in farm buildings and around a steading in this country. The whole show is well worth a visit, and it is understood the Atlantic companies are to offer special inducements to visitors to come across.

This effete old country is making strenuous efforts to keep up with her younger rivals across seas. In the west we have now got a fully-equipped agricultural college, with farm and experiment station. The first session of the new college has just closed, and everything promises fair for the future. The students who have entered for the various diplomas have come well through the trial, and in the east a movement is on foot to start a similar institution. There is plenty room for all such, and soon there will be three great teaching and demonstration centers in agriculture in Scotland. The struggle to obtain this has been long and arduous, and the supineness of our farmers and county authorities has been amusing. Principal Wright, in Glasgow, has not been easily daunted, and he has now had his reward. One of the best schools of this kind in Great Britain is the Agricultural School at Aspatria, in Cumberland. It is a private venture and has no subsidies, yet it turns out some very good work. The present principal is Mr. Smith Hill, and a smart man he proves himself to be. No school did better than Aspatria, under the old regime, in sending forward students who took the diplomas at the Royal Agricultural Society of England and the Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland. There is now only one national diploma in agriculture, the examinations for which are held at Leeds, under the joint auspices of the two national societies. The examination is a stiff one, and has to be taken in two stages. It has just passed for this year, and the work done by the students was highly creditable. Those who pass are entitled to write N. D. A. after their names.

"SCOTLAND YET."

## Likes the Collie.

The William Weld Co., Limited:

GENTLEMEN,—Received from Mr. McEwen my collie pup. He is a little beauty—a lot better than I expected. Thanking you for same, I remain,

Yours truly, J. F. WEBBER.  
"Oak Grove Farm," Bothwell Co., Ont.

W. B. JOHNSTON, Simcoe Co., Ont., writes:—"I commenced taking the FARMER'S ADVOCATE many years ago, but at one time gave it up, not having



CAVALRY HORSES.

Selected by Lt.-Col. Dent, at London, Ont., for the British Army. Mare on right, Thoroughbred. Three others by Thoroughbred sire. Height, 15.1 to 15.2 hands. Weight, about 1,000 lbs. each. Price, \$110 each.

leisure to read, but felt that I had lost my best friend. Three years ago I began taking it again, and could not think of doing without it. It is the best dollar's worth of reading any farmer can get."

Wet and cold has been the weather record for much of Ontario and the Eastern Provinces during the latter half of May.