

HIAWATHA 10067 AT TEN YEARS OLD.

Winner of championship and Cawdor challenge cup for 1902, and for four years in succession at the Glasgow Stallion Show.

Our Scottish Letter.

Farmers in this country have not learned, as in Canada, the advantages of combination. There is, however, a sensible improvement in the direction of adopting the system, and all-around farmers are combining for the furtherance of their own interests. The Essex farmers, who are largely Scots from Ayrshire, have been the leaders in this movement, and their work has been attended with the best results. At first their motive was to counteract the combination of the London milk-dealers, who practically made their own price and paid the producers just what they pleased. In this the farmers largely succeeded. By insuring their members on the mutual-bonus system against loss should they be offered a lower price than the standard fixed by the combination, they were enabled to refuse to sell, and anyone who failed on this ground to make a market had his milk taken by his neighbors, or if he churned, the combination indemnified him for his loss. Similar institutions have sprung up over England, and now all are embraced in one federation. The parent society in Essex has meanwhile extended its business, and undertakes to do with much else that is of mutual interest beyond the price of milk. Through its agency farmers are buying their manures and feeding-stuffs. Guarantees are obtained from the merchants, and the goods are subjected to efficient tests. In this way better value is obtained for the money expended.

In Scotland several institutions of like nature have been founded. The dairy farmers of the West of Scotland are endeavoring to combine on the Essex plan, and so far good results have followed. The chief difficulty in getting such institutions into effective working order is the spirit of individualism and the determination of each one to fight his own battle. This is commendable, but it does not seem desirable that too much stress should be put upon it as a reason for combining for mutual defence. The farmer needs protection as much as any other business man, and this should come to him mainly through his neighbors, whose interests as producers are identical with his own. The West of Scotland Federation has not succeeded in convincing every farmer that he should join, but it has certainly secured a much greater degree of support than at one time could have been thought possible. The taking of samples of milk for analysis is one of the most practical ways in which these organizations can help the individual. When he knows by the best attainable means what the quality of his milk is, he can face the opposition with some good hope of success. Some of the branches are discussing questions of such vital interest to dairy farmers as the treatment to which cows near the calving are subjected. By the way, an extremely interesting lecture on this subject was lately delivered in East Kilbride by Mr. Begg, a local veterinary surgeon. The subject was handled in a practical way. Some of the points can hardly be appreciated where the auction-mart system does not prevail. Here cows within a few days of calving are bought by dealers as a speculation. They pass from hand to hand, and are taken to one auction mart after another so long as they are uncalved, provided a profit can be made on them, and when at length they pass to a permanent abode, they reach it in a condition easily understood but pitiable to a degree. Some-

times the poor animal enters her new quarters with the pangs of labor already on her. She may survive these, and perhaps generally delivers her calf, but in many cases she becomes feverish and dies. The rough usage of the previous fortnight or ten days was in all likelihood the main cause of the disaster, and much cruelty is inflicted and capital lost by this wasteful process.

The decision of the Supreme Court, that milk-blended butter is not technically adulterated, and may be sold as butter with impunity, has rather astonished the public. Milk-blended butter is cheap butter washed or churned anew in milk, thereby greatly increasing its content of moisture and leaving a substantial profit to the blender. The decision was based on the fact that in the label covering the butter a full disclosure was made of its constituents, and that, therefore, no one was deceived if he used his eyes. Simultaneously with this decision, a departmental committee has reported to the Board of Agriculture that genuine butter should not contain more than 16 per cent. of moisture, but if the seller makes a disclosure of the fact that any butter he sells contains more than this, he shall not be liable to prosecution. Butter, in other words, is declared to be genuine up to 16 per cent. of moisture, but beyond that point moisture indicates that the goods have been tampered with. Still, the seller is at liberty to sell these goods under the genuine name provided he informs the buyer that they contain what proves them not to be genuine. This funny recommendation has excited a good deal of comment, and, indeed, of consternation.

Shorthorns have been the scoring breed at the sales this spring. Curiously enough, the best price for a Shorthorn was got for a Beaufort bull at Birmingham. The anomalies of the auction system were never more strikingly displayed than in this transaction. The bull was bred by Lord Lovat at Beaufort Castle in Inverness-shire, was taken past all the Scotch sales to Birmingham, in the English midlands, and there was purchased by Mr. W. S. Marr, Uppermill, Aberdeenshire, for 335 gs. Lord Lovat sent four bulls to this Birmingham sale, and they made an average of £271 11s. each. The Beaufort cattle have scored splendidly of late years. Their success is due to a bull named Royal Star, bred by Mr. Reid, Cromleybank, sold to Mr. Duthie and by him to Lord Lovat. He was sired by Belvidere, of the Sittyton Buttersly tribe, and his dam a Marr Roan Lady. The second best average at Birmingham was made by a breeder from the other extremity of the British Isles—Mr. Hosken, Hayle, Cornwall. He sold five at £134 8s., which ought to be good enough business. A notable Shorthorn bull has recently been destroyed in Mr. Duthie's famous champion, Pride of Morning. This great sire was champion at the H. & A. S. Show at Aberdeen in 1894. He was not the most prolific of sires, or he may have been sparingly used, as the number of bull calves by him at any of the Collynie sales was never very high. What they lacked in quantity, they made up in quality. No sire of recent years left so many bulls which as calves sold for phenomenal prices. One went at 450 gs., another at 350 gs., and others at 200 gs. and 105 gs. More than once the highest-priced bull calf of the season has been got by Pride of Morning. When opened, the old bull was "sound as

a bell." In another connection, a notable Shorthorn-man has passed away. I refer to Mr. Cadwallader J. Bates, of Langley Castle, Northumberland. This gentleman was grand-nephew of Thomas Bates, of Kirklevington, and author of that admirably-written book, "Thomas Bates and the Kirklevington Herd." As a storehouse of information regarding what used to be the greatest of all the Shorthorn tribes, this book holds a unique place. Mr. Bates was more of an antiquarian than a farmer, and, indeed, took high rank in that respect. He had, however, stock-raising ambitions, one of them being the restoration of Bates cattle to their position of supremacy. It seems a somewhat idle ambition, and not worth realizing even if attained.

English breeders of Aberdeen-Angus cattle have a society of their own, its principal object being the holding of a spring sale of young bulls and heifers at Birmingham. The second of these sales recently took place, and a good average was secured. The leading herd in the south seems to be that of Mr. Bridges, Horley, Sussex. He led both for bulls and heifers, and deserved his average. The ranks of Scottish breeders of these cattle have been thinned by the untimely death of Mr. Hugh Wilson, Milton of Noth, a man well under 40 years, and universally respected as a painstaking, solid judge of black cattle. He frequently acted in that capacity at the leading shows.

Galloway breeders got a very sharp lesson at their bull sale at Castle-Douglas. About three times as many bulls were presented as were wanted, with the result that there was a decided slump in the market. There was, however, as usual, room at the top, and Messrs. Biggar & Sons cleared the way with a fine lot of eight, for which they got the substantial average of £31 19s. 11d. Mr. Brown, Stepford, Dumfries, improved on this, but with half as many animals, making £33 19s. 10d. The averages after these tapered down very low, and trade generally was completely demoralized. Galloways are grand cattle, but you can easily have too much of a good thing.

Horse movements are not numerous. The non-arrival on your side of the Allan liner "Huronian" is giving rise to serious misgivings. When the vessel left here she seemed light. She carried several good Clydesdale stallions, and also their owners. Let us hope she may be reported safe in a very few days. General shows begin next week, and until the end of August the country will have one of these events on an average every day.

"SCOTLAND YET."

To Make Box Measures.

A box 24 inches long by 16 inches wide, and 28 inches deep, will contain a barrel or three bushels.

A box 24 inches long by 16 inches wide, and 14 inches deep, will contain half a barrel.

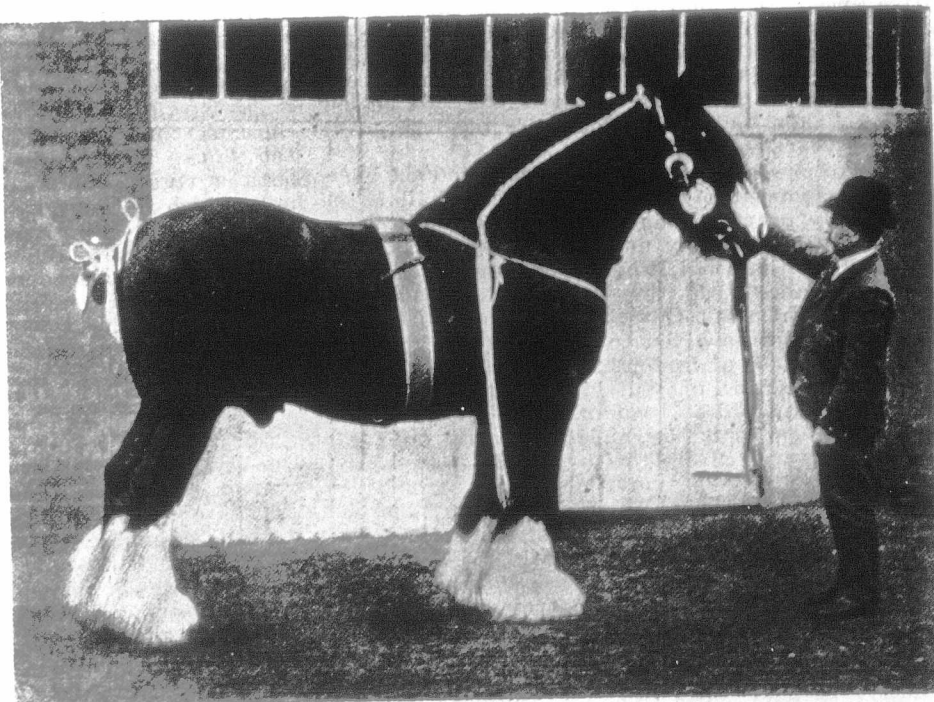
A box 16 inches square and 8-2-5 inches deep, will contain one bushel.

A box 16 inches by 8-2-5 inches square, and 8 inches deep, will contain one peck.

A box 8 inches by 8 inches square, and 4-1-5 inches deep, will contain one gallon.

A box 7 inches by 4 inches square, and 4-1-5 inches deep, will contain one quart.

A box 4 feet long, 3 feet 5 inches wide, and 2 feet 8 inches deep, will contain one ton of coal.



STROXTON TOM.

Winner of first prize for stallion ten years old and upwards, the championship, challenge cup, and gold medal as best stallion any age at the Shire Horse Show, London, Eng., 1902.