

tem, or the judicious purchase of good horses by companies of farmers, should result in a great improvement in our horse stock. We will suppose a case: A community of farmers have been horse-breeding in a slipshod way. Their horse reputation is not good. Buyers are scarce, at prices leaving no profit. They see their mistake, get together, hire or buy a first-class horse, breed from him for a term of three or four years, when he must step to one side because his fillies are coming on, all of which are at least half-sisters. Another, if possible, better horse takes his place. At the end of his breeding term, all the breeding mares of the district, six years and under, will be very closely related in blood, naturally of similar type and conformation. If this is followed up consistently, the community would soon have a fine horse reputation. Buyers will be attracted, and good horses become the rule, not the exception. No trouble matching teams here, and the farmers will derive double or triple the profits that they had from their former slipshod methods.

Our horse business is doing fairly well. The present conditions for the trade are very favorable, but profits on the horse-breeding business are not easily doubled. The greatest need is for a better class of stallion, and these will be forthcoming just as soon as farmers give up their penny-wise and pound-foolish policy of breeding to cheap and inferior horses.

LIVE STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

Time passes so rapidly that another letter is due to Canada before one has had time to turn oneself and master the new situation. March came in like a lion, and maintained that character throughout. We have had a typical, east-windy, cold, raw March, yet it has not been unpleasant for outdoor work, and sowing is well advanced. On what we call carse—that is, heavy clay land—rain is needed, as such land becomes baked, and it is not easy to get a good seed-bed in it. Taken all over, in spite of a fine, open winter, the crops of 1910 will prove the least remunerative of any recent season. Potatoes are the only crop which are now making a good price, and those fortunate enough to have quantities on hand will be smiling. Roots, as a crop, have been excellent, but, unfortunately, store cattle, or, as you call them, stockers, were dear to buy, and fat cattle are now selling at too low a figure to leave a sufficient margin of profit to the feeder. Some feeders are crying out, and demanding a more plentiful supply of store cattle. This cry is always heard when conditions are as we have now described. The man who has bred his own stockers will have done well, but he is in a minority these times. The low price of beef is due to the enormous imports of dead and chilled meat. This has ruined altogether the demand for cow-beef, and the situation is in many respects critical. The farmers in this country have a decided grievance in respect that foreign dead meat comes in here subject to none of the irritating, vexatious restrictions by which the home producer is beset. He is surrounded by inspectors from the cradle to the grave. He would not complain about this so much were his foreign competitors similarly dealt with; but they lead charmed lives, and dump what they please on these shores. It is not fair. Personally, I am all for protecting the consumer, but he can be poisoned just as easily by chilled carcasses from the ends of the earth, which, as they come here, cannot be inspected, as by any carcass of a "fallen" animal at home. However, our Government is so busy doing other things that subordinate matters, like the food of the people and the well-being of agriculture, get little or no attention.

SHORTHORN SALES—A CORRECTION.

Shorthorns have again been in demand during March. Sales have been held at Darlington, Belfast and York, as well as in Lincolnshire and elsewhere. Unhappily, an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease was reported early in the month in Surrey, and forthwith all our oversea customers shut their ports against British cattle. This marred the prospects of the sales, but, on the whole, remarkably good trade was experienced. Heifers were selling exceptionally well at York, and all together, the experience of the past month goes to suggest that there is a big, healthy demand for Shorthorns within the limits of these islands. I made a mistake in my last letter regarding the highest price realized for a Shorthorn bull at the Spring Sales of 1911. The highest price was 1,500 gs., equal to £1,575, paid at Birmingham by the Shorthorn king of the world, William Duthie, Aberdeen, for Strowan Clarion, bred by Captain Graham Stirling, of Strowan, Ayrshire. Mr. Duthie knows his way about, and when he pays such a figure for a yearling bull, we may depend that he sees some future for the breeding. Mr. Duthie some time ago hired an exceptionally well-bred red bull from A. W. Manning, Adbolton, Nottingham, a most successful breeder of Hackneys, who only a few years ago turned his attention to Shorthorns, and had

scored heavily by providing a sire for the premier Shorthorn herd of the British Isles. Mr. Duthie shares the cosmopolitan tastes of Amos Cruickshank. He is wholly devoid of prejudice. A good bull is what he looks for; that is, a bull that carries flesh, and may be relied upon to produce cattle having the same priceless quality. Mr. Duthie is extremely popular in his native county, where he takes an active part in all good work. He has lately been signally honored by those connected with the Presbyterian Church, of which he is and has long been a member. We honor the great Shorthorn breeder for other things than his fame and success in that line.

AYRSHIRES AND MILK RECORDS.

Ayrshires are, as I judge from recent exchanges, in much favor with the breeders of Canada. The ranks of breeders here have been rudely broken by the death of Robert Wallace, Auchinbrain, Wanchline, Ayrshire. He was one of the foremost men in his county. Eminent as a breeder of Ayrshires, he was equally distinguished as a breeder of Border-Leicester sheep. He was a man of untiring energy and zeal. Whatever he took in hand was gone into with all his might. He had no use for laggards, and woe betide the sleepy-head who crossed the path of Auchinbrain. He was one of the first in our experience to ignore the showyard type of fancy Ayrshire and to breed for constitution and the pail. He was a Milk Record man in his own way before anyone talked publicly of keeping such records; and in the past ten years, but especially during the past four years, he reaped his reward. He was paid some phenomenally high prices for Ayrshires for export, and his customers invariably came in. Mr. Wallace had been in indifferent health for some time, and was little seen in public for about twelve months. His death makes a big blank in the ranks.



Marking the Lambs with the Ewe's Number (Temporarily), for Tattooing in Ears Later On.

Referring to the public Milk Record Societies, their report for 1910 has now been published. Over 9,000 cows were under their control last year, and the number of applications for enrollment is steadily increasing. Men who opposed them are now eager to join the societies, and I take it the day of the tight-vessel, small-teated Ayrshire is about ended. In these times, men must study utility and commercial value, rather than fancy, and we are likely to see a rapid improvement in Ayrshires along these lines. Some maintain that there is an element of uncertainty in the results attained by the Milk Record Societies. They say this is due to the results being based on averages and estimates, instead of actual weighings of the produce of every animal twice a day. Some interesting figures in support of this view have been published. The chairman of the Milk Records Society admits that there is something to be said for the argument, but daily weighings of each animal's produce are obviously impossible, and one thing is proved by the results published: the figures given as the result of periodic testings are in every case proved to be under, rather than over, the actual results, when weighings of each cow's produce were made twice a day. This is satisfactory. It proves that real benefit accrues from the work of the Record Societies with periodic weighings.

[Note.—Why say that daily weighing is impossible? Tens of thousands of Canadian dairymen with grade or common cows weigh every cow's milk twice every day in the year, and find it pays well in the increased yield obtained. We shall certainly do it on "The Farmer's Advocate" farm.—Editor.]

BACON AND EGGS.

Interesting debates are taking place on the

question of the scarcity of bacon. It is a significant fact that the pig population of this country has fallen from 2,861,644, in 1904, to 2,380,387, in 1909, a decrease of somewhere in the neighborhood of half a million head. Various reasons are assigned for this; possibly the chief is the uncertainty attending a pig stock during the war against Swine Fever. This war has now been raging for about fifteen years, and, so far, we are not within sight of the extinction of the disease. It has cost the country an enormous sum, and it has greatly hampered the trade in pigs. These inconveniences would excite no murmuring were there any indication that the war had been successfully waged. This, however, does not appear, and many are crying out against the plan of campaign. It is, of course, certain that under these conditions the extension of pig-breeding is not to be expected. At the same time, there must be some world-wide reason for the shrinkage in the bacon supply. It cannot be because the demand is less. Everybody eats bacon. The one dish which is common to the cottage and the palace is bacon and eggs. It is the favorite breakfast dish of these islands, and whoever can supply that demand should coin money. Somebody, even under existing conditions, is coining money. The bacon producer is getting about sixpence per pound for his pigs, while the consumer is paying about 1s. per pound for his bacon. The shortage in the supply does not warrant the bacon factor in fleecing the public. A good wholesome article of food will always command a high price, and an extension of pig-breeding would undoubtedly mean increased revenue to British farmers.

Poultry were for a long time a much-neglected section of the population of the farmyard. The normal attitude of the farmer to poultry is indicated by the agricultural proverb that a hen always

is in debt. When she is properly looked after, from her earliest embryonic stage in the egg, to the end of her career, she is the most profitable member of the farmyard, provided she be intelligently handled. If hens were bred so as to begin laying when eggs were dearest, greatly enhanced profits could be secured. It is a foolish thing to pour produce upon a glutted market. The cottage and the palace alike eat eggs with their bacon, and there is money to be made by the farmer if he will only breed hens as intelligently as he breeds cattle. The successful poultry-keepers are those who are always learning. Possibly no one succeeds in

any walk in life to whom this does not apply.

HORSES.

I do not know whether this letter should conclude without a word about horses. Perhaps there are readers who believe the horse notes to be the best, and they would be disappointed if I had nothing for them. Well, there is not much. The shipments of Clydesdales in the later weeks of March have been few. The west-bound ships from the Clyde have had their accommodation fully occupied with passengers, and no room could be found for horses. Trade follows the flag—the verse men say. For one thing, I am certain the thousands of those settling on the Western prairie will sooner or later require horses. Perhaps that will be the least of the disillusiones to which the settlers will be subjected. No doubt, they will have plenty of hardships to encounter, but the land they cultivate will be their own, and day by day it becomes more valuable, as the iron road comes nearer and nearer. It is the flower of our countryside that is leaving these shores. They go to enrich the great Dominion, but the Mother Country will miss them and their descendants in the days to come. Canada's gain will, undoubtedly, to some extent, be Great Britain's loss. It is all one Empire, and we should try to see large visions and mighty providences.

"SCOTLAND YET."

Abundant hair on swine, lively and somewhat fine and soft, growing out of a pliable skin, which is neither thick nor papery, and free from many conditions, tells the story of robust health, vigor, thrift, and active circulation. Free action and a bright, sprightly manner are signs of good digestion and good health. (From Coburn's "Swine in America.")