

Our Scottish Letter.

The topic of conversation amongst farmers at present, and for the past few weeks, has been the weather. You have a climate in Canada, but we have none here. The vagaries of the season have been wonderful, and show no signs of abatement. For example, on Monday morning we had all arrangements made to start for the north to view some herds and studs; but while the previous day was one of the most boisterous and wet experienced this year, on Monday morning the earth was iron-bound with frost, and so we remained at home. On Tuesday the wind blew a gale from the south-west, and, in spite of Job's view, we had bitter cold and a heavy snow fall. Next we had a delightful variety on Wednesday, from snow by way of frost and sleet to rain, and now for two days, Thursday and Friday, it has rained and no mistake.

The average agricultural scribe is doleful in these circumstances. He sets out with a discourse on the fluctuations of the weather as we have done, he deprecates the state of the markets, the price of potatoes, the prospect of the turnips being wasted by the sudden alterations of frost and snow, and even the fact that wheat straw can be sold for 80s. per ton of 2,240 pounds does not improve matters, but he keeps on grumbling, so that he is anything but a pleasant companion. On the whole the local correspondent of the agricultural press in this country is disposed to be a pessimist and a confirmed grumbler. But in this he to some extent reflects the spirit of the farmer, who has a bad reputation as a grumbler. Sometimes he has cause. It is hard lines to have to keep your straw at home and consume it on the farm, where it may be worth about ten shillings per ton to you, when you might be realizing eight times that amount. This arises from the absurd clauses still to be found in some farm leases. These bind the farmer to consume certain of the products of the farm on the farm—irrespective altogether of the condition of the markets. No greater hardship than this can, under present circumstances, be conceived, and farmers are not unnaturally rebelling against such conditions. The Agricultural Holdings Act was one of the first indications that the people had come to rule in this country. Formerly landlords made the laws, and, being human, they made them to suit themselves; but the tenant, when foreign competition began to make the shoe pinch, thought of looking into matters, and, although little good came of his proposals at first, in the end he will likely come to his kingdom.

There is no use in blaming the landlord too much. He simply did what the farmer would very likely have done had he been making the laws—he would have made them to suit himself. Scottish leases contain many absurd clauses, and this which treats the farmer as though he were a child is about as absurd as any. Fortunately the pressure of the times is compelling the landlord to think less about how the tenant farms, and more about the solid fact that he does farm, and that to such good purpose that he is able to pay his rent. This is the chief recommendation which a farmer has in these times. The immense quantities of wheat sent here by Canadians and Americans have rendered the growing of this valuable cereal ruinous. The heavy clay lands where it was formerly grown are going out of cultivation, and such subjects as clay pastures have actually been discussed at farmers' club meetings. These pastures are costly to lay down, and do not come to their maturity until the third year. They are better adapted for the production of dairy produce than for feeding, and there is a strong disposition on the part of farmers who have been accustomed to high farming to revert to grazing. Something, however, will require to be done, for the conditions which formerly prevailed will not now be of any use.

The rain, it raineth every day, and the man who can be happy under such depressing circumstances must be a veritable Mark Tapley. All kinds of farm work are at a standstill, and everything is soaked. Trade generally indicates some improvement here. Ship-building, which is the great industry in the Clyde Valley, offers to revive and a better future may be in store for us. The effect of a revival in trade will of course be generally beneficial, but agriculture will be the last department affected. When all is said and done, horses remain a remunerative branch of farm stock, and attract a vast amount of enthusiasm to themselves. Both Clydesdales and Shires are selling well, and phenomenal prices were recorded at recent sales of Shires. One mare, Dunsmore Gloaming, the champion of last year, was sold at Mr. Murtry's sale a fortnight ago for 1010 gs., and Lord Wantage had a really good sale last week. Shires, like Clydesdales, run on specific lives, and Harold and Premier are the Darnley and Prince of Wales of the Shire breed. There is a circle of Shire fanciers, who are at present booming the Shire as the Shorthorn was boomed from fifteen to twenty years ago. One member of the ring buys from another, and they thus help each other's sales.

We have comparatively few wealthy men in the Clydesdale ranks, still those who continue with us are enthusiastic, and whether they breed or buy they always do well for the breed. The most enthusiastic of these is Mr. John Gilmour, of Montrave, who is one of the most liberal-minded gentlemen in Scotland. His magnificent stud comprises both the redoubtable, Prince of Albion and Moss Rose, and last week the whole was inspected by the students attending the Edinburgh classes.

Next week the famous Hatton studs, owned by Mr. Walter S. Park, will be inspected by the students attending the Glasgow classes, under Professor Wright.

This is the season in which stud books appear. Four have lately come into our hands—the Record of the Hunter Improvement Society, the Hackney Stud Book, the Shire Stud Book and the Clydesdale Stud Book. The first is rather an unique record. It is made up of particulars of horses and mares qualified according to certain standards to breed hunters. A thoroughbred stallion is generally regarded as the best sire of a hunter, provided he has strength enough. His stock, out of three-parts-bred mares, are good hunting stock as a rule, but many experiments have been tried to get heavy weight hunters, and the Hunters' Improvement Society was formed to carry out some ideas on the subject. It has done excellent work, and in union with the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding will this year hold a show in London, beginning on Tuesday, 6th March. Hitherto this show has been held in conjunction with the Hackney Show, but the hall became overcrowded, and last year it was resolved to carry on three separate shows during spring. The Shire Show opens first on Tuesday, the 20th February, the Hackney Show on Tuesday, 27th February, and the Thoroughbred Show a week later. The Scottish National Clydesdale Show holds in Glasgow on March 9th, and bids fair to be one of the best ever held. The Cawdor Challenge Cup has given an impetus to this show, and speculation is rife as to the winner of the cup for 1894. At present it is held by Mr. James Kilpatrick with Prince of Kyle 7155, and in 1892 it was held by Mr. Wm. Renwick with Prince Alexander 8900. Whether both of these champions will again face the music is uncertain—one of them, Prince of Kyle, will if all goes well. All of the stud books contain portraits of 1893 champions. The Shire Society has adopted the principles to which the Clydesdale Society has steadfastly clung of giving photographs of the horses and not sketches. The result will be altogether in favor of the formation by foreigners of right opinion on British breeds. Clydesdale men have never shrunk from this ordeal, while fully conscious that sometimes photographs fail to do justice to horses. Still our conviction is that a photograph, however defective, is much to be preferred to the best model, which only shows what one would like a horse to be, but does not represent one as it really is. Rokeby Harold and Rokeby Fuchsia amongst the Shires are superior animals, and Mr. Parnell, Rugby, who had something to do with bringing forward both, is to be congratulated on his work. What will strike most people who look at the portraits in the Clydesdale Stud Book is that the young mare, Queen of the Roses, is very like her dam, the famous Moss Rose. She seems to grow more and more like her every day, and as she appears in the photo, bare foot and heavy in foal, she will not be easily beaten. Prince of Kyle also makes a capital picture.

The horse export traded during 1893, it now appears, was almost wholly confined to Hackneys. They seem to be the only breed which either Americans or Canadians will buy. The continent seems also to be becoming a Hackney market, and trade to various countries in Europe has been fairly good. In Scotland the breeding of nags is becoming more and more popular, and before long the best of the breed will be found in the north. Mr. Alex. Morton, Gowanbank, Darvel, has been the great pioneer Hackney breeder in Scotland, and after somewhat weary waiting he has at length succeeded in enlisting an energetic body of supporters with him. Sketches of several of the studs have been appearing in the Scottish Farmer, and some of the choicest blood in the country will be seen at the sales to take place in the early spring. I had intended saying something about the cattle trade, but the mail goes and I will reserve remarks on that subject until next letter. SCOTLAND YET.

Questions for Factorymen.

We have sent out the following questions to a few cheese factories that paid their patrons last season by the Babcock Test. Not having the addresses, we were unable to send to them all, and therefore take this opportunity of inviting every one who tried the test system to send in the result of the experience gained, whether satisfactory or otherwise. Others will be trying the plan this year, and practical information along this line will be helpful. What we desire is a perfectly frank and impartial discussion of the subject. As active preparations for the season's operations will soon begin, replies should be in at as early a date as possible. The questions are as follows:—

1. Do you find the test an improvement on the "pooling" system, and if so, for what reason?
2. Will you continue it this season, and if not, for what reason?
3. What method do you follow in taking and preserving samples of milk?
4. How often do you test, and what points do you deem needful of special care in making the tests?
5. By whom is the expense borne, and what would you say is a fair estimate of the expenses per patron for materials, extra labor, etc.
6. Do you prefer having the maker do the testing, or would you favor one man doing the testing for a group of factories?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Veterinary.

ANSWERED BY DR. MOLE, 260 ADELAIDE STREET, TORONTO.

MEGRIMS—STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR WHITE WYANDOTTES.

M. E. MAYBEE, Trenton:—"Will you please tell me what is the name, cause and cure of that disease of hens, where they evince a desire to wring their own necks?"

I have submitted this question to several poultry experts, and they are of opinion that it is Megrims, an affection of the brain, and incurable. Can you send me a bird, dying or dead, and I will make a *post mortem*, and probably be able to tell you something of this disease?

In answer to your second question, I have copied the following from the Standard of Excellence:

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

DISQUALIFICATIONS:—Any feathers on shanks and toes; permanent white or yellow in the ear lobes; comb other than rose; wry tails, deformed beaks, feathers other than white.

STANDARD WEIGHTS:—Cock, 8½ lbs.; Cockerel, 7½ lbs.; Hen, 6½ lbs.; Pullet, 5½ lbs.

MALE:—Head,—Short; Beak,—Well curved; Eyes,—Large, clear and bright; Face,—Bright red; Comb,—Rose, low, firm on top, oval in shape, terminating in a small spike; Wattles,—Medium length; Ear lobes,—Well developed, and bright red short necks; Back,—Short, broad and flat at shoulders; Saddle,—Full, and rising with a concave sweep to tail; Breast,—Full and round; Body,—Short, deep keel bone, straight; Wings,—Medium size and well folded; Tail,—Well developed; Color of plumage,—Pure white throughout.

FEMALE:—Head,—Short; Crown,—Broad; Beak,—Well curved, yellow; Eyes,—Large, clear and bright; Face,—Bright red; Comb,—Rose; Wattles,—Rather short; Ear lobes,—Well developed; Neck,—Short and well arched; Body and Fluff,—Body should be deep and wide at sides, keel bone straight; Fluff,—Full and abundant; Wings,—Medium and well folded; Legs, Toes and Thighs,—Short, stout and well covered with soft feathers; Shanks,—Free from feathers, in color bright yellow; Plumage,—Pure white throughout.

Legal.

WIFE'S POWER TO MORTGAGE.

F. R. G., Carivale, Assa.:—"I have advanced \$700.00 to my husband, to go farming, taking no security. An implement firm is about to close down on him, wanting a mortgage on his '94 crop. Can I take a mortgage on the '94 crop and other things sufficient to secure myself?"

Yes. Take your mortgage. You had better get a lawyer to draw it up for you.

LANDLORD'S POWER OF SALE.

J. & O., Portage la Prairie, Man.:—"I. A rents a quarter section of land to B for one year. B fails to pay rent and A comes with the sheriff and seizes all B owns on said place. I understand that A can sell all B owns, but here is the question: B has hired C to work on his place with a team of horses, harness, wagon and plow, all of which belong to C and are fully paid for. Can A sell these articles belonging to C for the rent owing by B? 2. Just before A and sheriff came to B's place, D had driven up with horse and buggy and put his horse in the stable, and while settling some business with B, the sheriff came along and seized D's horse and buggy along with the rest of the stuff. Can A sell these articles belonging to D for the rent owing by B?"

1. A can sell the goods of B and also the goods of C, which are above mentioned, but only for a certain amount of rent, as is provided in our statute respecting distress for rent. 2. The sheriff must release D's horse and buggy.

PAYMENT OF ORDER.

T. H. NESBITT:—"A had a contract with the municipality for a job on the road. B gets into trouble and asks A for an order on the reeve of the municipality to advance some money on this job. It had not yet passed the council nor was it yet begun. B does not see the reeve at all, but signs his name to the order and turns it in to C to collect. The job is then done and passed the council, and then C presents said order to the secretary-treasurer, which he pays to C. Is this order legal when it is only drawn in the reeve's name? Had the secretary-treasurer any right to pay this order to C? What course would you advise A to take to recover said money? B wants to act crooked with A. Can the municipality be compelled to pay A this money?"

No, you cannot compel the municipality to pay you the money again which they have already paid on your order.

PAYMENT OF MORTGAGE.

RILEY:—"Would you please answer the following in your next paper: I bought a half-section syndicate land twelve years ago; three years later I mortgaged the same for \$840. Have renewed the mortgage three times since, the last time being about a year ago. 1. Could I throw up the place to the mortgage company for what they have against the land? 2. And in case the company could not realize the amount out of it, could they come on me for the balance, providing I was good for it?"

1. Yes. 2. Yes, unless the mortgage provided the contrary.