

Our Scottish Letter.

Some discussion has arisen since the great Fat Stock Shows, on the significant fact that the champions of the Aberdeen-Angus breed have invariably been heifers, while the chief demand in the best markets is for steers. The fact was commented on in the report of Smithfield Show, which appeared in the Scottish Farmer, and an English correspondent of the same journal, "Belvoir," in a well-written letter in to-day's issue of the same paper, gives details of weight at Smithfield which fully bear out his contention that the Shorthorn has little or nothing to fear from the advance of the Aberdeen-Angus breed. Taking bullocks under two-years old only, he found that seven of the black Polled sort weighed 80 cwt. 3 lbs. (the English cwt. contains 112 lbs.), or an average of 10 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lbs. apiece, while nine Shorthorn bullocks of the same age weighed 113 cwt. 2 qrs. 25 lbs., giving an average of 12 cwt. 2 qrs. 15 lbs. This undoubtedly tells well in favor of the Shorthorn, and although it is an ancient truism that figures can be made to teach anything, we hardly think any possible manipulation of the figures before us will teach any other lesson than that which appears on the surface. The best steers seen at Smithfield were the cross-breeds from the Aberdeen-Angus and the Shorthorn. There was nothing to show that any particular form of the cross was more successful than the other. Sometimes the direct cross did best, the produce of a pedigreed Shorthorn bull and a pedigreed Aberdeen-Angus cow, but more frequently the best type of steer was a grade Shorthorn from an Aberdeen-Angus cow. One of the finest steers shown was Pudgy 2nd, bred and owned by Mr. James Bruce, Inverquhomery, Longside, Aberdeen. He was first at Birmingham, and again at Smithfield, and there was no Aberdeen-Angus blood in him. He was a grade Shorthorn, four crosses from a West Highland dam. A grand ox he is, and some of the characteristics of his maternal ancestor, who came from the West, were easily traced in him. Mr. Bruce has been conducting an experiment of this kind for some time, and will register the heifers with the requisite number of crosses in the Shorthorn Herd Book. This method of breeding is interesting, and will be followed by many with every wish to see it succeed and render important service in the breeding of cattle. Belvoir remarks that an Aberdeen-Angus heifer in full training is the perfection of a beef animal, but there are indications that some English feeders still doubt the commercial value of the breed. Possibly, however, the desire of Belvoir may yet be fulfilled, and the unquestioned supremacy of the breed made manifest by a pure-bred Aberdeen-Angus steer winning the championship at the great Christmas shows.

A good shipment of horses was made to Canada during the past week by the well-known importer, Mr. William Wallace, Dunbar, Ont. He took with him three Clydesdales and two Hackneys; the former being got by such famous sires as Sir Everard 5553, Eastfield Stamp 6723 and Duke King 5723, while the Hackneys were bought from Mr. Riddell, and are good examples of the nag breed. One of the Clydesdales, Clan Algie, was bought from Mr. William Taylor, Park Main, Paisley, and a remarkably well-bred horse he is. Eastfield Stamp was a great big, massive son of Darnley, which bred good stock, but unfortunately did not leave very many foals. He was first at Glasgow when a two-year-old, and at Kilmarnock when three years old. In many respects he resembles his sire more, perhaps, than any other of his sons. Mr. Wallace's shipment is composed of big, heavy horses, and with a good passage they should leave him a little money.

Great activity prevails in the Clydesdale market. Many of the best horses are already under hire for 1894; indeed, I don't know that there ever were as many before in the same position at so early a date. As was to be expected, in view of the slackness of trade, prices are a little back, and owners are easily dealt with.

Dairy questions are more and more becoming the main questions for farmers. The supply of sweet milk to our large towns is a splendid source of revenue to farmers within a radius of ten miles of the centre of demand. In a recent lecture, one of the foremost dairy farmers in the Glasgow radius stated that £35 per annum was a fair revenue from one cow in a dairy of from fifty to seventy cows. The dairy farmers in the vicinity of Glasgow are heavy feeders, and take all out of their cows that may be in them. Possibly other farmers are not so sore on the cattle in their charge, but the Glasgow farmers have heavy rents to pay and work hard. The women folks have the heavy end of the burden, and within the radius specified the hour for rising in all weathers, on all days, summer and winter, is 3 a. m. This is tough work, and many a one succumbs.

SCOTLAND YET.

FARM.

Potato Contests.

BY JOHN S. PEARCE.

I notice a report of Freeman's potato contest in the Dec. 15th issue of your valuable paper. In that report I notice that the yield per acre of the most successful competitor was 347 bushels, the second was 160 bushels, and that of the third was 147 bushels. This seems to me to be an extremely wide difference, and it has occurred to me that the third competitor might have had as good a crop, or possibly better crop, without any artificial fertilizers whatever. In fact, the same may well be said of the first and second.

As you do not give the conditions upon which this prize award was based, nor the rules and regulations under which these potato contests were grown, one is entirely in the dark and unable to form an intelligent opinion upon the subject. It has occurred to me that such contests, to be of any value to the readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, should be conducted upon the same plot or field, or series of fields if you like, and under the supervision of a competent and reliable individual, and one entirely disinterested. If Mr. Freeman's fertilizer is superior to any other fertilizer or barn-yard manure, let him put it in open competition against any other fertilizer or manure. Let Mr. Freeman offer \$50, or any other sum he likes, to be awarded to the largest yield of potatoes per acre, to be grown with Freeman's fertilizer or any other fertilizer, barn-yard manure or home-made fertilizer.

This last-named article is something that every farmer can make on his own premises, and, Mr. Editor, I think it is your duty to tell your readers how to make this home-made article, or get some of your numerous and intelligent contributors to do so, for it can be done. Also tell your readers about how many tons of valuable fertilizer they allow to go to waste or run into the streams and rivers. Tell them what percentage of the manure in their stables is in liquid form and goes to waste. Also tell them how to save this. Tell them of the hundreds of tons of valuable fertilizer for potatoes that is sold by their wives and others for a bar of soap and shipped out of the country in car loads. Whose fault is it that seven-eighths of our farmers are not growing as much per acre as their fathers and grandfathers were, and why is it that they are not?

Then there is another defective part in your report. You do not tell us how many bushels per acre Mr. Mullock, Mr. Hodgins and Mr. Peck grew without this fertilizer, with the application of ordinary manure, and also how many bushels per acre they grew without any manure or fertilizer of any kind, for without this what value is the report of this potato contest? Possibly they might have grown as many bushels, or more, without any fertilizer at all. I noticed when attending the annual meeting of the Experimental Union at Guelph, the other day, that the result of some of their experiments with fertilizers showed that the extra yield per acre did not pay the cost of the fertilizers.

I do not wish to be understood as condemning fertilizers, but they must be used with judgment and some degree of intelligence. I am anxious to call farmers' attention to the waste of fertilizing element that is going on all around them. Neither do I wish any one to think that this has been written in any spirit of fault-finding, but rather as a friendly criticism and to bring out the facts. Let us have more light on this matter.

[In our next issue we hope to be able to give our readers more information regarding Freeman's potato contests. We were conscious that the data given was meagre, but it was all we could obtain at the time. We have written to the parties interested, and hope they may be able to give us "more light".]

The Water Supply.

On many farms there is a lack of pure water. Live stock must have an unlimited supply of this all-needed element. It should be always within their reach. On many farms the animals have to be driven longer or shorter distances to a water hole or running brook, where the ice is chopped, and they are allowed to drink, freeze and shiver, at the expense of food and to the sure loss of the owner. The stronger animals often stand over the drinking hole for some time, thus depriving the others of a drink, or keeping them at bay until they are half frozen. Many of the best farmers have so arranged their stables that water can be supplied the animals at will; this is done by building a cheap trough to run the entire length of the stalls. This trough is kept full, either by hand-pumping, by windmill or by gravitation; the latter is the easiest and often the cheapest plan. Mr. William Sharp, 184 Hamburg Ave., Toronto, Ont., owns a driller with which he bores and tubes wells, and does his work in such a way that many of the wells sunk by him are flowing, that is, they overflow, often with considerable force. When once sunk they are everlasting, and, as they are tubed with iron to the top, or even above the ground, the water cannot become contaminated in any way, but must always run on fresh and pure. This sort of well is destined to supersede the old-fashioned sort. They are superior in every respect.

OUR PATRONS' EXPERIENCE.

What the Readers Say.

SIRS.—I look upon the FARMER'S ADVOCATE as a journal ranking among the first for information upon topics connected with agricultural science. J. HOGES PANTON, Professor of Natural History and Geology, O. A. C., Guelph, Ont.

GENTLEMEN.—It is always a pleasure to me to recommend your valuable magazine to farmers, who certainly get better value for their dollar in subscribing for it than for any similar paper I know of. JAMES FLETCHER, Dominion Entomologist and Botanist, Ottawa.

GENTLEMEN.—Your paper is just what I want, and I now with pleasure enclose One Dollar for subscription of same for one year. JOSEPH MCKEEMAN, Box 11, Glamis.

SIRS.—The ADVOCATE is the only publication of all I take that is preserved. Every farmer should take it. HON. ROBERT REED, Belleville.

SIRS.—I have no hesitation in saying that I consider the FARMER'S ADVOCATE a good, reliable and very cheap agricultural paper. It certainly furnishes its readers a great variety of correspondence and vigorously written editorial matter on general agriculture, dairying, stock raising, fruit growing, and other things in which the farmers of this country are deeply interested. I often wonder how so much very useful information can be provided for \$1.00 a year. JAMES MILLS, O. A. C., Guelph.

DEAR SIRS.—Any person or organization in the Dominion that is interested in agricultural matters must wish the FARMER'S ADVOCATE well. There are a number of journals published in the Dominion of good standing and reputation, and that are unexceptionable in every respect; we must all wish them prosperity, but none of them take the place of the ADVOCATE. It is adapted to every family in the country, and not the least valuable of all its good qualities is the fearless independence with which it denounces anything in the shape of humbug and deception. This was a feature given to it by its late much-esteemed founder. JULIUS L. ISCHES, Secretary for Agriculture, New Brunswick.

SIRS.—The FARMER'S ADVOCATE, both in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, as well as the western edition in Winnipeg, is a strong farmers' and breeders' paper, filling a great want in the Dominion. Our department always get it bound for reference. It is well and capably edited, giving reports of all associations promptly and well. HENRY WADE, Secretary Agriculture and Arts Association.

What the Advertisers Say.

DEAR SIRS.—We beg to say that we consider the ADVOCATE entitled to be credited with a great many of our best sales made in Canada. We have shipped animals to every province through our advertisement in your paper. Fifty-six years' experience has taught us that the leading paper is worth all those that follow. JOHN MILLER & SONS, Importers and Breeders of Clydesdales, Shorthorns and Shropshires, Brougham.

SIRS.—I have been a continuous advertiser in the ADVOCATE during the whole of the past seventeen or eighteen years; not for love of it, but because I have always found that it paid me exceedingly well to do so. Indeed, I think it quite out of the question to do any considerable amount of business in the pure-bred stock line without advertising in the ADVOCATE. Much as I have found it to my advantage to advertise with you in the past, I find it still more so at present. ARTHUR JOHNSON, Breeder and Importer of Shorthorns and Clydesdales, Greenwood.

SIRS.—I have advertised in your valuable paper for the last few years; am very much pleased with the result, receiving enquiries from all parts of the Dominion, and even United States. Even with the dull times, have no reason to complain of sales made. I consider the money expended in advertising in the ADVOCATE is well spent. ROBERT NESS, Importer and Breeder of Clydesdales, Shires, English and French Coachers, Stallions and Ayrshire Cattle, Howick, P. O.

GENTLEMEN.—It is a decided pleasure to express our experience in advertising with you during the last nine years. In starting our business we advertised quite largely through the leading daily and weekly papers of the Dominion, and after watching closely and tabulating as far as possible, the ADVOCATE shows an advantage of 70 per cent. over all other papers, and 90 per cent. better than the majority. We believe there is no means by which we can speak to the farmers of Canada so well as through the columns of the ADVOCATE. Wishing you a continuance of your success, we are, SIRS, THE WORTHMAN & WARD MFG. CO., London, Ont.

SIRS.—I think the ADVOCATE the best advertising medium for the farmer, breeder or stock dealer. The little card that we have in it has brought a great number of enquiries for young stock, and among them a number of buyers. I think the money spent for advertising in the ADVOCATE a good investment. D. BIRRELL, Importer and Breeder of Scotch Shorthorns, Clyde Horses and Cotswold Sheep, Greenwood, Ont.

SIRS.—In the year 1880 we gave your book a trial ad. of three months, the results of which more than surprised us. The same ad. remains there yet, which is the best proof that we are well satisfied with the book and the money invested in it. HAMILTON MICA ROOFING CO., Manufacturers of Patent Mica Roofing Material, Hamilton, Ont.

GENTLEMEN.—Last fall we decided to do away with all agents and sell our goods direct to the farmer at greatly reduced prices. In order to make this important change known to the farmers throughout the Dominion, we selected the ADVOCATE, and our small ad. with you for one month has brought us wonderful results, and we are daily crowded with letters of inquiry, and, better still, with plenty of orders. We want every farmer in Canada to hear the good news. WATSON MFG. CO., Ayr.

GENTLEMEN.—We find that the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is head and shoulders above any other paper as an advertising medium. We have tried them all; yours pay us best by all odds. W. H. MARCON, Secretary Steel-Briggs-Marcon Seed Co., Toronto, Ont.

GENTLEMEN.—I have carefully noted the returns we received for money spent in advertising and have concluded that that spent with the FARMER'S ADVOCATE pays us well. We received very much better returns from your paper than from any other; in fact, I believe your paper benefits our business more than any or all the others with whom we spend money. R. Y. MANNING, Manager Wholesale Grange Supply Co., 126 King St. East, Toronto, Ont.

SIRS.—Enclosed you will find a cheque for thirty-five dollars (\$35) for advertising in the ADVOCATE. Please acknowledge receipt. We must say we have had more enquiries through advertising in it than any other paper. HON. THOS. BALLANTYNE & SONS, Breeders of High Class Scotch Shorthorns and Ayrshires, Stratford.