

Stallion Inspection.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

In your last week's issue I see another article about stallion inspection. Canadian horsemen do not give the matter of horse-breeding as much thought as they should. Our forefathers in Great Britain centuries ago devoted time and money to the advancement of the horse. Even the Kings and Queens of England took an active part in making the horses of England the best in the world, and largely through government aid this has been attained. When Kings and Queens and rulers lead, as did James I., Charles II., Cromwell, Henry VIII., William III., and the Consort of Queen Ann, Prince George of Denmark, Queen Victoria, and her son, our present king, Edward VII., all lovers of good horses, no wonder that the horses of England stand at the head of all horses in the world. Horsemen in Canada have spent fortunes in bringing good horses to this country to improve our stock, and, as a matter of fact, we find ourselves able to compete, not only with our big cousins over the way, but with the mother country as well. Now, what we want is aid from our Government, by an act being passed to protect good horses from the inferior and cheap stallions being allowed to compete with horses that cost thousands to import. We find in looking back in history, that in England Henry VIII. issued an edict which ordered the destruction of all under-sized and inferior horses, and the law was so vigorously enforced that few escaped, and by this stringent measure the breeding of horses of fine quality advanced very rapidly. What I would like to see from all parts of the Dominion is for horsemen to get up petitions, hand them to their respective Members of Parliament, and lay the matter fully before our Government, and I believe we would soon see an act passed prohibiting inferior stallions from doing service, and a great improvement made in our horse stock. A good inspector would put out of business scores of scrubs, and if the "Farmer's Advocate" will come to the horsemen's aid, our success is assured.

R. L. J.

Kent Co., Ont.

STOCK.

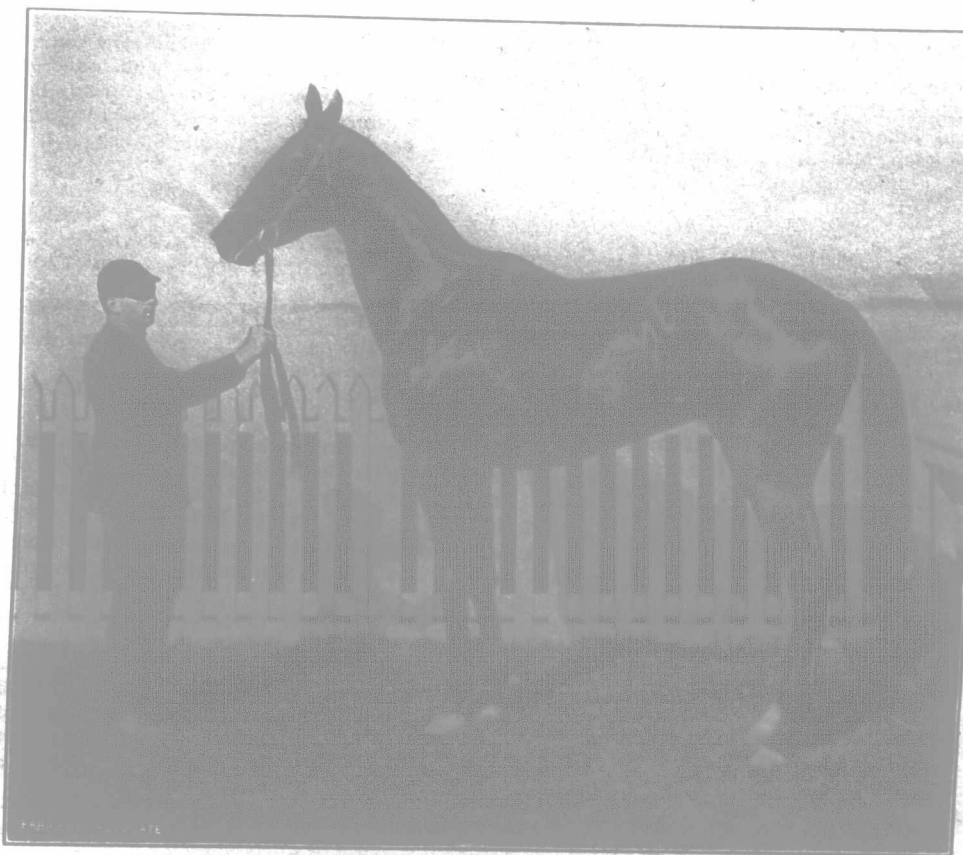
Our Scottish Letter.

It is time that I was letting Canada know that Scotland is still to the fore. The chief topic here during the past four weeks has been the weather. The hill lambing season has been the worst known for many years. The wind has kept almost unrelentingly in the north-east, and we have had snow or sleet when rain was absent. The complaint from the hills is not so much absence of lambs, as want of milk in the ewes, and a consequent high death rate among the lambs. The ewes have also been dying. A form of disease in the udder is common in such a season, and the prospect generally this year is far from being what is desired. The hill farmers came through 1903 not so badly, but they have made a very unpropitious start this year, and what the end may be with a lamb crop from three to five per cent. below the average, is not difficult to determine. The shortage in lambs is all the more regrettable, as mutton is selling well, and had there been an average crop of lambs, prices in August might have been fairly remunerative.

Every kind of farm labor is in a more or less unsatisfactory state on account of the cold, blustery weather. Clay land is thoroughly soaked, and practically unworkable. Complaints reach us of an irregular oat braird, the grub or wire-worm having been at work. Turnip sowing should soon be on, but the sodden state of the fields makes the working of the land a matter of difficulty. The Duke of Sutherland has been giving glowing accounts of Canada, and I suspect a good many farmers here would be willing to exchange a Manitoban winter for a Canadian spring. The outlook for 1904 has certainly not improved during the past four weeks.

Shows have occupied a good deal of attention. Two great events have taken place in Dublin and Belfast; Scots-bred Shorthorn bulls having cleared the way at both shows. The Dublin champion was Mr. Robert Taylor's Collynie Conqueror, from Pitliverie, Carnoustie; and the Belfast champion, Mr. Matthew Marshall's Roan Conqueror, from Stranraer. The Dublin champion was bred by Mr. Duthie, and the Belfast champion by Messrs. Peterkin, Duglass, Conon Bridge, Rosshire, and the two bulls stand to each other in the respective relationships of sire and son. Both will likely find their way to South America, where there is a strong demand for highly-bred Shorthorns. Mr. Miller, the famous South American exporter, showed his £630 Birmingham purchase at Belfast, where he led his class, but was beaten for the championship by Roan Conqueror. This bull is named Loyal Victor. He is a beautiful dark roan, showing great style and gaiety, and in a show-ring is a very hard bull to beat. He was placed second at Dublin to the highest priced bull at the Perth spring sale, but at the Belfast show their positions were reversed. The Birmingham bull is of much greater quality than the Perth one. Shorthorns still lead, and in Ireland it is difficult for any other breed to make much headway.

Scots shows have been in full swing. This is the season for showing Ayrshire cattle, and extraordinary displays of the breed have during the month been seen at Kilmarnock, Ayr, Galston, Bute, Dumbarton and Hamilton. There has been an upheaval in the judging of Ayrshires this year. At Ayr, the disposition was to revert to the type in which fancy vessels with small teats were conspicuous features. At Kilmarnock and Galston, on the other hand, the cow or quey with large frame, milky appearance, and big, serviceable teats, was much in evidence, and was awarded distinction. The Ayr Derby is the great event of the year. Three-year-old queys, entered when they are stirks, then do battle for the first time. This year the winner was found in a quey from Mr. James Lawrie's herd at West Newton, Strathaver. She had a remarkably tight, level, broad-soled vessel, and was either to be placed first or discarded altogether for her small teats. So far Scots judges have not summoned enough courage to say, "Small teats condemn an Ayrshire, no matter what her other qualifications may be," and consequently Mr. Lawrie's quey was declared winner, and finally supreme female champion of the breed. No one found fault with the award, but the placing of a small-teated quey so high, of necessity gave cows and queys similarly decorated a chance which would not otherwise have come their way. At the same time the Derby contained quite a number of really good, big-framed cows, with sound commercial points, and their merits were admitted. To this class belong a number of capital specimens, exhibited by Mr. T. C. Lindsay, Aitkenbrae, Markton, at Ayr, and several shown by Mr. John McAlister, Arydne, Toward, at Rothsay, and a capital family of cows shown by Mr. Robt. Buntin, Wauds, Kilmarnock, at Dumbarton.



Sapper, Black Gelding, Winner of King's Plate, 1904.

Distance, mile and a quarter; time, 2:12; age three years. By Courtown—late Hardcastle. Bred by Richard Wells, Aurora. Owned by Mr. N. Dymont, Barrie, Ont.

For bulls and young Ayrshires of both sexes, the invincible exhibitor is Mr. Jas. Howie, Hillhouse, Kilmarnock. He is taking the leading honors with very gay specimens.

Two valuable shipments of Ayrshires have recently been made to Canada. Mr. Robt. Nees, Jr., Howick, Que., sailed about a month ago with a carefully selected lot, bought mainly from or through Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Barcheskie, Kirkcudbright. Messrs. Hunter, Lachine Rapids, Montreal, have taken away a fine lot, selected from the herd of Messrs. R. & A. Montgomerie, Lessnessock, Ochiltree. Both lots excel in dairying properties, and will do much to sustain the credit of the Ayrshire in Canada.

A wide circle of friends will regret to learn of the death of Mr. Robert Montgomerie, Lessnessock, Ochiltree. The sad event took place on the 10th inst. Mr. Montgomerie was in his 64th year. He was one of the most successful breeders and judges of Ayrshire stock and produce in the country, and was held in high esteem for his sterling character and manly independence. He never feared to give his opinion when asked, and everywhere throughout the West of Scotland his death is mourned.

The Highland and Agricultural Society is conducting an important milking test in the south-western counties. The results for 1903 have been published, and show that the work has been most useful. The cows are being tested under normal conditions in their own byres. Thirteen hundred and forty-two cows were under observation. Of these, 320 were spread over eleven herds in the county of Ayr; 363 were found in eleven herds in the County of Dumfries, and 640 were on twelve farms in Wigtown, the county

of large dairies. The average butter-fat yield of the ten best cows in Ayrshire, was 3.84 per cent., and the average for the ten worst, 3.47 per cent. The calculated difference in the values of the two sets of cows works out at £15 3s. 4d per head for the best, and £8 10s. per head for the worst. In Dumfriesshire, the ten best yielded 3.86 per cent. butter-fat, representing £15 11s. 8d. per head, and the ten worst 3.59 per cent. butter-fat, representing £8 3s. 9d. per head. The Wigtownshire cows did not figure out so well. The ten best showed 3.82 per cent. butter-fat, valued at £13 7s. 11d. per head; and the ten worst 3.44 per cent. butter-fat, valued at £6 17s. 11d. per head. The lower average from Wigtownshire is ascribed to the fact that there the cows are mostly all bought in for cheese-dairying purposes, very few of them being home-bred. Consequently little is known of their milking powers until they are tested. The broad lesson from these tests is, that a dairy may be full of unprofitable cows without the owner being aware of the fact. If the fixing of a standard of butter-fat in milk has done nothing else, it has put farmers on their metal to find out with some degree of certainty whether their cows are profitable, or the reverse.

Galloway dispersion sales are, unfortunately, rather numerous these days. Three herds are being dispersed—the Naworth herd of the Countess of Carlisle; the Kilquhanity herd of Mr. Robt. Wilson, and the Trogu-hain herd of Mr. William Barbour. The last is the oldest. It comes under the hammer in the course of next week. The Naworth herd was planted in an out-of-the-way corner of Cumberland. Good prices were realized. The Kilquhanity herd was dispersed on Thursday. It was of but recent foundation, being largely constituted of the pick of the Tarbreoch dis-

persion. The celebrated Dora of Durhamhill, the most notable Galloway of recent years, in spite of her accumulated years, made £60. Her daughter, Doris of Kilquhanity, made £52. Two year-old heifers made up to £31 and £33. The average price of twelve calves was £10 14s. 7d. Seven yearling heifers made an average of £15 7s. 6d.; and fourteen cows averaged £22 9s. 1d. A dead set is being made against the Galloway in Ireland. The Meat-traders' Association, of which Mr. William Field, M. P., is President, has actually petitioned the Irish Board of Agriculture not to purchase any more Galloway bulls. This is an extraordinary suggestion, especially as it is everywhere admitted that the Galloway bulls in use in the wet climate of the West of Ireland have proved invaluable as sires. Gentlemen who have gone over that ground, speak in unequivocal terms of the

good influence thus exerted. Ireland is a queer country. In Scotland we would allow a man to get the kind of bull he thought best fitted to effect an improvement in his stock. In Ireland, those who have only a remote interest in the matter, interfere and seek to put an artificial restriction on the free play of supply and demand. It is to be hoped the efforts of Mr. Field and his coadjutors may be defeated.

Clydesdales still maintain their hold on the affection of the Scottish farmers, but Hackneys are being bred in increasing numbers north of the Tweed. At a sale of harness horses, held near Carlisle in Lanarkshire, seventeen harness horses made an average price of £55 17s. 8d. each, and six ponies went up to the fine average of £41 11s. 3d. each. The highest price was 105 gs., for a two-year-old pony stallion. A great sale of harness horses and ponies takes place tomorrow (14th May), at Gowanbank, Darvel. It will be interesting to see how this sale goes, as most of the stock to be sold has been bred on the farm of Mr. Morton. Certainly no finer lot of harness horses and ponies has ever been offered at public sale in Scotland. Clydesdales were much in evidence at the principal West County Shows. The Kilmarnock and Ayr events brought out a large number of prize animals got by the celebrated Hawatha =10067=. The champion male at Kilmarnock and the champion female at Ayr were both got by him, while the champion female at Kilmarnock and the Champion male at Ayr were got by the great breeding horse, Baron's Pride =9122=. Mr. Robert Beith, Bowmanville, and Mr. Thomas Graham, Claremont, are both here at present, and I understand they are to sail in a week's time with a big lot of horses. "SCOTLAND YET."