

### More Horses Will be Needed.

Various estimates place the life of a horse on active service at not more than ten days. If this is at all near the mark there seems to be every reason to believe that the demand for horses to be used as remounts, supply horses, or to haul guns will increase rapidly. It is now stated that the War Office is asking for greater numbers of horses from Canada and that large numbers of horses bought for the second Canadian contingent are to be shipped at once to England to go into service in the Imperial Army. It will be necessary to replace these for the use of the contingent, the horses to be purchased from farmers.

Whether all these despatches carrying news of the horse situation are correct or not it seems reasonable to expect that large numbers of horses will be required when the great drive of the allied armies commences next spring, and it also seems reasonable that many of these horses will come from Canadian farms. It is a fact, at any rate, that buying of horses at time of writing is being pushed with vigor. The writer saw several horses passed upon in a Western Ontario city not long ago. A good type of horse was being offered, some rejected, some purchased. The cavalry horse in favor seemed to be one weighing from 1,050 to 1,100 pounds and 15.2 to 15.3 hands high, short-coupled, strong-topped, deep-middled, clean-limbed, free-going horses showing little if any white, sound in wind and limb and good actors under saddle. Each purchase is saddled by a soldier and ridden at the walk, trot and gallop and the wind as well as the temperament of the animal is thoroughly tested. Slightly heavier horses are taken for transport and gun work but all must be clean-limbed. When the horses in the war are numbered in the hundreds of thousands and the average life of the animal on the firing line is ten days or less some idea of the demand for surplus horses which is sure to result may be gleaned.

## LIVE STOCK.

### Our Scottish Letter.

The New Year has opened but only the Disposer of all things knows how it will end. It is impossible for men to forget that exactly a century ago conditions prevailed in Europe almost similar to those prevailing to-day, and that 1815 saw the power of Napoleon shattered on the field of Waterloo. Not unnaturally the hope is universally cherished that 1915 may see the Kaiser's power shattered, and peace established on a basis of international righteousness. While we write the outlook is hopeful, but all who have studied the signs of the times agree that the stress of conflict is yet to come. When the Allies begin to drive the Germans out of Belgium, and the Russians begin to over-run Silesia, the struggle will be intense, and all the available forces of the Allies will be called into action. It has been a time of stress so far, and many a gallant soldier has fallen, but ere the trumpet be rung in the hall, and men learn war no more, we shall see greater things than these.

The Old Year exacted a heavy toll of the Scottish agricultural world. In its dying week quite a number of very notable men passed away. Among Scottish peers none held a higher place in popular favor than the Duke of Buccleuch and the Earl of Stair. Both were typically Scots. They owned extensive estates in Scotland, and were never happier than when resident among their own people. The Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry to give him his full title was head of the great Borden clan of the Scots; and he also represented one of the lines of the Douglas clan, so famed in Scottish story. The late Duke was a kindly and popular landlord, attached to his Scottish tenantry, and their homes and anxious up to the measure of his powers to do his duty by them. He carried out the best traditions of the old Scottish landowner, and deserved well of his country. The late Earl of Stair represented the Dalrymples, a family that rose to fame as Scottish jurists. The late Earl was an out and out Scotsman, a Presbyterian, and proud of the fact. He gloried in everything Scottish, and was the sworn foe of anything that savored of abasing the fashions of the Southron. His town house was in Edinburgh, not in London, and he resided nearly all the year round either at his Wigtownshire seat of Lochinch, Castle Kennedy, or at Henfold, in East Lothian, where he died, having officiated as a Presbyterian elder on the previous Sabbath day in Cranstown parish church. His son and heir is a prisoner of War in Germany, and it is doubtful whether even yet he knows of his father's death. Sir John Macpherson Grant, of Ballindalloch, Baronet, represented two great Highland clans, the Macphersons and the Grants. He owned the famous Aberdeen-Angus herd in which Trojan-Ericas abounded, and took a lively interest in agricultural affairs. His wife met her death under tragic circumstances in Spring, and Sir John never got over the

shock. He was a handsome, jolly big fellow, an ideal Highland chieftain.

In the ranks of tenant farmers, 1914 made many blanks. T. A. Anderson was one of the leading farmers in Rosshire. His death took place towards the end of November, following on an exceedingly heavy death-rate among the men of that great agricultural county. A successful breeder of Shorthorns, Aberdeen-Angus, and cross-bred cattle. Mr. Anderson also achieved success as a breeder of Clydesdales and feeder of sheep. He was one of the most methodical and painstaking farmers in Rosshire, and was largely employed in arbitration work. He was a member of many public boards, and did splendid public service. Among the foremost men in East Lothian was James Shields, Langriddry, a man of strong personality, and great intellectual power, he would have made his mark in any walk in life. He was a first-rate public speaker, and could deliver a singularly clever, well-reasoned address. As a farmer he excelled in the management of his holdings on sound commercial lines. He was a man, every inch of him, a friend of good causes, and exemplary in all things. W. S. Ferguson, Pictstonhill, Perth, was a man by himself. Farmer, stock-breeder, dairy farmer, chemical manufacturer, and agricultural publicist, he made a name for himself which will long survive. He bred Aberdeen-Angus cattle and Border Leicester sheep, was a pioneer in the building of cross-bred cattle on broad commercial lines; could cultivate land under almost any conditions; and withal was one of the most extensive dairy farmers in Scotland. He was one of the foremost speakers at agricultural conventions, and altogether was a man among men. John Marr, Uppermill, Tarves, was one of the writer's oldest friends in the agricultural world, a cousin of the late famous Shorthorn breeder, W. Marr, and himself one of the leading breeders of Shorthorns in Aberdeenshire. He early became known as a

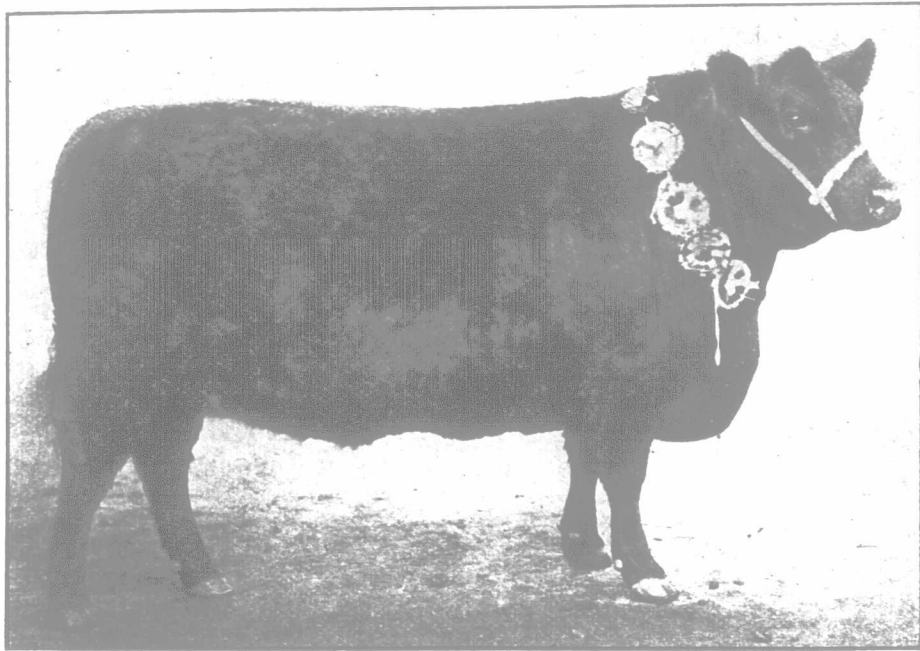
(Aberdeen-Angus); 2, Newtonian (Shorthorn), a beautiful steer, perhaps the most beautiful ever seen at London, and under two years old; 3, Elita of Drummair (an Aberdeen-Angus cross); 4, Burn Kathie (Aberdeen-Angus), the Edinburgh champion; 5, Kier Princess (a Shorthorn cross); 6, An Aberdeen-Angus junior steer. In the carcass competitions, the beef championship went to an Aberdeen-Angus cross-bred; and the reserve was an Aberdeen-Angus pure-bred. The second to the champion in its own class was a Galloway, and as butchers' cattle on hoof the Galloways are the most popular breed at the London show. In the mutton carcasses the championship went to a Southdown-Cheviot carcass, and the reserve champion was a Suffolk. Among the longwool breeds the Cheviots made almost a clean sweep, and among the shortwool breeds, the Suffolks were almost equally successful. An ideal butcher's carcass is a Suffolk-Cheviot cross; scarcely anything can beat it. Berkshires are a most invincible among pigs in carcass form, although for commercial crossing purposes, there does not seem to be anything to beat the Large White.

We are having some interesting discussions on the relation between Agriculture and the War. The subject presents itself in many phases. Should farmers lay down more land to wheat or should they go on as they have been doing trusting to the navy to keep the great trade routes open for the conveyance of food stuffs? The general disposition is to answer this question in a hesitating way. If you have good wheat land, put more of it under crop, but do not sacrifice good oat land for the purpose of growing secondary wheat. Wheat at best is only food for man; oats are wholesome food for both man and beast; should we be put upon short commons, no man or woman would suffer injury by being compelled to live largely on oatmeal. The best of men have done so in the past, and a grand race has been reared on this feeding and on this alone.

Potatoes are a wholesome food and a family getting plenty potatoes and milk could put in life not so badly. But the chief trouble here is with Black-face wool. The great market for this wool in the past quarter of a century has been the United States. The wool is of a long, strong, wiry, nature and is largely used in the manufacture of carpet. It can however be used for the manufacture of cloth fabrics and blankets, and in view of this fact an embargo has been placed upon it, and its exportation is prohibited to neutral countries. The reason for this is that it may be exported to the enemy, and be used for the manufacture of cloth and blankets. There is a loud outcry against this embargo, and curiously enough the chief complainers are the wool-brokers, not the wool growers. Naturally some are suspicious. They think that the pressure would first be felt by the growers, and were the embargo so harmful that they would be worst hit. The great point is not whether this Black-face wool can be used at home for the manufacture of cloth, but whether the quartermaster of the German army could use it for any form of army purpose. Until this is negated it does not seem reasonable to expect the British authorities to raise the embargo.

One of the most remarkable facts connected with the War is the comparative immunity from disaster of ships bearing food stuffs to this country. Since the war began, prices of such commodities have only advanced about ten per cent. The North Sea routes are being kept open, and Great Britain has suffered little inconvenience so far as her supplies from Holland and Denmark are concerned. This is surely a marvellous tribute to the efficiency of the British Navy. We have had heavy, and tragic losses to our warships, the most recent, that of the Formidable on New Year's day, morning, but scarcely a food-carrying ship has been interfered with on the high seas. We have been wounded in what we regarded as our invulnerable part, the Navy, yet that Navy has kept our trade routes open, and guaranteed our food supplies, during five months of harassing warfare. So far as Agriculture is concerned there must be, as there is, a hardening of prices, but there is no inducement to embark on anything in the nature of a gamble in the production of food stuffs.

SCOTLAND VET.



Estelle of Maisemore.—Smithfield Champion.

breeder of Clydesdale horses, and had established himself as such before he took up the breeding of Shorthorns. But his father, the late George Marr, Cairnbrogie, Oldmeldrum, was always a Shorthorn man, so that it was not a surprise to anyone when John Marr became a follower of the red-white-and-roan. He continued the sale of Shorthorn calves at Uppermill in conjunction with Mr. Duthie's sale at Tillycairn, early in October, and was gradually building up a solid reputation as a Shorthorn breeder. Mr. Marr in his youth was one of the foremost athletes in Aberdeenshire, and even to the end he carried himself with the lithe, firm step of the man of muscle and sinew. His wiry figure gave no indication of waning powers until a few months ago, but those who saw him at the October sale did not expect that he would see a return of the day, and with the dying year, John Marr finished his course. 1914 will be memorable for many things: in Scottish Agriculture it will stand pre-eminent as a year that was fatal to leading representatives.

It is late in the day to be referring to the Fat Stock Shows of 1914. They were chiefly noteworthy for the extraordinary success of Aberdeen-Angus cattle and their crosses, alike in competitions on hoof, and in the carcass competitions. The champion at the Scottish National was an Aberdeen-Angus yearling heifer (that is a heifer under two years old). The champion at London was another Aberdeen-Angus heifer, almost a year older. The champion at Birmingham was a great Hereford steer, but he was a long, long way from the championship at London. The London awards, which of course, were the crown and summing up of all that went before, so far as breeds and crosses were concerned, worked out in this way:—1, Estelle of Maisemore