

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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palities to exempt from taxation unpastured woodlands (within certain limits), has passed the Legislature. What municipality will be the first to act?

### An Embargo on Human Sympathy.

Just as soon as the overwhelming magnitude of the Californian earthquake that overthrew San Francisco and adjacent towns became known, the Canadian Parliament, without a shadow of dissent, voted \$100,000 for the relief of the stricken community, whose losses were doubly aggravated by the conflagration that followed the seismic overthrow. The vote voiced the national sympathy of this country for the sufferers in the Republic. Official intimation was in due form sent through the channel of the Government at Washington, but the offer was just as promptly and decisively declined. President Roosevelt's reply, coupled with the usual diplomatic thanks, was that the United States was in a position to fully care for the situation, and we believe a couple of similar offers from other nations were also declined. Behind the official reason handed out was, perhaps, the national self-sufficiency that would not permit the Republic to be under obligations to anybody. This almost bumptious attitude has not been well received in Canada, and we are glad to find that it has not universal approval across the lines, either. Furthermore, it is in striking contrast with recent disclosures through the press of the hundreds of thousands who have been for weeks on the very brink of starvation, and the almost tragic appeals from California to Congress, which has already voted some \$2,500,000 for relief, for \$5,600,000 additional to pay losses involved. National respect is all right, but we have little use for a spirit that puts an embargo upon an expression of national sympathy, the touch of nature which makes the whole world kin.

### Law, Opinion and Reforms.

Judging by the almost daily bill-of-fare served up at the Ontario Legislature for a couple of months past, this Province appears to be passing through a sort of law-making epidemic. Law and public opinion are curiously interwoven. Mr. A. V. Dicey, K. C., B. C. L., one of the foremost English authorities on law and constitutional questions, delivered a course of lectures before Oxford and Harvard Universities on this subject a few years ago, which have since been published in book form. In the concluding chapter he points out that legislative opinion is more often the result of facts than of philosophical speculations, and that no facts play a more important part in the creation of opinion than laws themselves, whether wisely or unwisely enacted. He contends that every intelligent student of this subject must ultimately arrive at the conclusion that each kind of an opinion entertained by men at a given era is governed by that whole body of beliefs, convictions, sentiments or assumptions which, for want of a better name, we call the spirit of the age. As Pattison says: "Deeper than opinions lies the sentiment which predetermines opinions. What it is important for us to know with respect to our own age, or any age, is not so much its peculiar opinions, as the complex elements of that moral feeling and character in which, as their congenial soil, opinions grow." Through all these legislative efforts runs the aim to increase the sum total of human security and happiness. Elsewhere in this work reference is made to the long-drawn efforts for reforms in which leading minds make their impress on the spirit of their times. It is very clear that the purely judicial or philosophic type of mind is not the one which most effectually battles for the alleviation of wrongs and abuses. There must be intense conviction, optimism, enthusiasm, and an unconquerable persistence in overcoming the inertia of the public and those entrenched self-interests which act as a brake or a block to progress and reform. Another point to be remembered is this: That laws do not enforce themselves, even though they are the expressions of public sentiment, and that Canadians are rather prone to settle down with folded arms once the legislation is enacted, in the cheerful confidence that thereafter all will be well.

## HORSES.

### Our Scottish Letter.

#### HACKNEYS SELL HIGH.

We live in stirring times, and it is certainly the unexpected that happens. It is believed by many that the days of horses are over, and soon we will be puzzled to know what to do with the grain and hay now grown for horse provender. Motor-cars are everywhere, and, as if the petrol motor were not a sufficiently weighty menace to the horse, the streets of London are about to be invaded by the electrobus, the evil-smelling, noisy automobile to give place to the smoothly-running and noiseless electric car. Yet, while these are the portents, yesterday the writer saw a five-year-old Hackney mare sold by public auction for 1,175 gs., or \$6,165. This was the London champion, Menella (16799), a dark-brown mare, bred by Mr. R. C. Marshall, Burntsheilds, Kill-earchan, Renfrewshire, and owned by Mr. William Scott, of Thornhome, Carlisle, whose stud horse, Mathias (6473), was her sire, and he also now owns her dam, Norah Garton, a daughter of the great sire, Garton Duke of Connaught. Menella was champion driving animal at the London Hackney show nearly two months ago, and in respect of shape, color, size, manners, and action, all round, is at present peerless. The purchasers are Can & Co., Clydevale Stud, Carlisle, who do a very big trade in carriage horses, and have a splendid outlet for the very choicest, in the United States. The wonders of the day did not cease with Menella. Her half-brother, Gay Mathias, a lovely four-year-old black cob, also bred by Mr. Marshall, made 650 gs., or \$3,110, and others by the same magnificent harness sire drew such prices as 285 gs., 265 gs., 185 gs., 180 gs., and 110 gs. The average price of ten harness geldings and mares got by Mathias was £319, and the average of twenty harness horses sold at Thornton yesterday was £184 17s., as against £108 at last year's sale, when the highest price was 585 gs., paid for Bryony, another of Mathias' progeny, since exported to New York. It is obvious, from these figures, that motor cars do not in any way threaten the supremacy of the highest class of harness horses. At the Gowanbank sale, on

Thursday, Mr. Alexander Morton sold 39 harness horses, cobs and ponies, at an average of £14 6s. 16d. Considering the fact that 19 of these 39 were ponies, this must be regarded as not bad business. The 19 ponies made an average of £37 1s. 7d. There is, however, a distinct lack of confidence in the trade for light-legged horses generally. The tip-top section sell for more money than they were ever making, but there is a big chasm between their value and that of the best class of commercial harness horses. The well-known Hackney stallion, Matchless of Londebore (1517), which Mr. Andrew Montgomery brought back from Canada last winter, has been purchased by Mr. Alexander Morton, and joins his Gowanbank stud. Mr. Iain Ramsay, of Kildalton, Islay, has also purchased a famous old Hackney in Lord Hamlet (3750), which has come north, and joins his famous Islay stud. This horse was the first of the produce of the great Ophelia, the London champion mare, and dam of Mathias Polonius, Heathfield Squire, and one knows not how many more first-class horses and mares. Ophelia is, without question, the most successful Hackney breeding mare on record. So far as I know, she is the only London Hackney champion mare which had bred champions.

THE AYR SHOW is past for another year, and the Ayr Derby, the blue riband of the Ayrshire breeder, has been won by Mr. James McAlister, Meikle Kilmory, Bute, one of a trio of enterprising brothers bred in that island, all of whom achieved distinction as breeders. Mr. McAlister's champion is by no means a big animal, but she has plenty of vessel and teats, and is an improvement, so far as length of teats is concerned, on many of the fancy show sorts with which the public have been familiar in the past. Although beaten for the championship at Kilmarnock, she turned the tables on her opponents at Ayr and came out on top of everything. The sire of this quey is Sir John of Old Grattney, a bull promising to breed uncommonly good stock. The first, third and fourth in the Ayr Derby were all got by him. The second was by the noted bull, Flora's Chief, the son of a famous show cow named Flora of Burnhouses, shown some years ago by Mr. Wm. Howie, and rarely beaten. The dam of this second quey, Queen of Hillhouse 12205, owned by the late Mr. Drennan, was one of the best champion cows at Ayr. It is worth noting these particulars. Blood tells. Both Flora and Queen were magnificent, big, milky-looking cows, and popular with both the "fancy" and the commercial judges of Ayrshires. Whether the Derby was this year better than in recent years is a moot point. Perhaps it would not be incorrect to say that, barring a little lack of size and scale in body, the 3-yr.-old queys are fully better than they have been. The most outstanding improvement is seen in the size of the teats. Mr. Thomas Barr, Monkland, Kilmarnock, was champion both at Kilmarnock and Ayr with his famous bull Zomosal, a big, handsome, white and brown, with lots of substance and length.

Clydesdales were both numerous and good at Ayr. On account of the lamented death of their owner, Mr. St. Clair Cunningham, the champion of the Kilmarnock show, and other outstanding exhibits, were not forward. Mr. J. Ernest Kerr, of Harviestown, Dollar, was first and champion with his beautiful three-year-old mare, Veronique. She was got by Montrave Ronald, an extra well-bred horse, and looks like taking a deal of beating this season. Mr. Kerr's stud also provided the first-prize yeld mare and two-year-old filly, both being got by Baron's Pride, and the first-prize brood mare, Mr. Chapman's Winsome Baroness, was got by the same sire. The first-prize yearling was Mr. Robert Park's Mannora, by the celebrated Marmion, the sire of Rosadora, the Cawdor Cup champion of last year, now in Mr. Bryce's hands at Arcola, Assa. The champion of the male section was Mr. John Pollock's Undaunted Prince, by Hiawatha, a very tall, narrow colt, with great showy style and good action. He is a two-year-old, and when he fills out will have few equals. Mr. James Kilpatrick had first in the three-year-old class with Hapland's Pride, another son of the same sire, and a wonderful mover. The winning yearling in a big class was a very lovely colt, owned by Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, and got by Baron's Pride. This rare stamp of a quality Clydesdale is a treat to look at. The longer one's eye dwells on him, the better does one particularize his many fine points. He is all the time a gentleman's colt. He was bred by Mr. Robert Sherman, Balig, Kirkcudbright.

The Athenia, of the Donaldson Line, which sailed this week, carried one of the most valuable shipments of Clydesdales and Ayrshires, Shetland ponies and other classes of stock which has left the Clyde for many a long day. It is impossible to give details, but Mr. R. R. Ness, of Howich, Que., has a magnificent lot of non-reacting, high-class Ayrshires, carefully selected from the herds in which dairying profits count for more than show-yard honors. His Clydesdales include prizewinners at Perth and other shows. Mr. Carruth is also a shipper by the same great ship. He hails from the Northwest, and has a lot on board that should command favorable attention