

### Our Scottish Letter.

#### THE HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

We have just closed the annual four-days' show of the Highland and Agricultural Society. The site of the show this year was the Highland capital, Inverness, and there is no more beautiful show-ground in the country. The Society derives its name from the fact that it was originally formed to improve the condition of the Highlands. Its subsequent development is indicated by the word "Agricultural." During three-fourths of its history the society has been more agricultural than Highland, yet it has never lost touch with its original purpose, and is now, perhaps, doing fully as much for the advancement of the Highlands as at many an earlier period of its history. The show is this year held under the presidency of Lord Lovat, a descendant of the famous Simon Fraser, the Lord of Lovat who lost his life and his estates for his attachment to the cause of Charles Edward, the Young Pretender, in the '45's. The estates were afterwards restored to the Frasers when the Hanoverian dynasty was accepted by all the chiefs, as well as the people of the Highlands. The Lovat Frasers, as a family, and the neighboring clan of the Chisholms, remained Roman Catholic, and to this day they are among the leading members of that faith in Scotland. The present Lord Lovat is a comparatively young man, and distinguished himself during the South African war by raising a body of mounted infantry, known as the Lovat Scouts. They did good service in the field, and are a live element in the British Army to-day. His experiences in that connection led Lord Lovat to understand the value of the stout, active ponies upon which the Boers were mounted, and this led him to seek the improvement of the native breed of Highland ponies, which have much of the stamina of the Basuto pony on which the Boers were mounted. Others have been laboring to perpetuate this breed, and at the show which closed to-day, there was an exhibit of no less than forty-six brood mares of the thick, stout sort so much fancied by those who know the value of these extremely hardy animals. The championship of the breed went to a gray stallion named Skerryvore, owned by His Majesty the King, but bred by J. H. Munro MacKenzie, of Calgary, Urull, one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the breed.

A curious difference of opinion exists among fanciers of these stout Highland ponies as to what size they ought to be, and this year the Board of the Highland Society so far humored the two sides by opening two classes, one for what was called the "heavy" type, and the other for what was called the "light" type. It was left to the judge to classify them, if he was not satisfied with an owner's own effort in that direction. The judge was Lord Arthur Cecil, who now lives at the Mount Symington, Hants, in the extreme south of England, but has all his life been an eager breeder of Highland ponies. So far as one could judge by looking at the two classes, the difference between them is a matter of tweedle-dum and tweedledee. There is no real difference. So far as the heavier or the lighter character of the pony is concerned, the question is very much a matter of rearing. Those bred in the Outer Isles, where the conditions of existence are harder than on the mainland, are naturally not so heavy as those reared under more favorable auspices on the mainland. There is no essential difference between the real Highland ponies. There is a difference between those which have been crossed with the Arab or lighter Thoroughbred and those which have been kept pure. But the types then are of necessity different, and no one who wishes to perpetuate the genuine breed will cross them with an Eastern sire. Admittedly, sires are scarce, but with so many mares in the country, there should be little difficulty in securing sufficient sires to perpetuate the excellence of the breed. A typical Highland pony should be of a dun color, with a black stripe down the line of the backbone. This sort are proverbially hardy. One of such, owned by R. L. Thomson, who owns the Island of Elgg and the Strathaird estate in the Isle of Skye, was third in her class, and was sold for between £40 and £50 at the show. Many thought her the best in the show. They stand under 15 hands, a good useful height being 14.2 or thereby. They are thick, stout, short in the leg, and have well-laid shoulders, which enable them to trot well and carry a rider in comfort. Undoubtedly, this section made a great impression at the show this week.

Clydesdales were also phenomenally good. A better show of the breed has rarely been seen at the H. & A. S. shows. The feature was the triumph of the produce of Baron of Buchlyvie 11263, about which a costly litigation is pending before the House of Lords. He was sire of

all the four first-prizewinners in the stallion classes, and of the four, three are the property of and two were bred by his present owner, William Dunlop, Dunure Mains, Ayr. He was also the sire, and Mr. Dunlop is the owner, of the first-prize two-year-old filly, which has never yet been beaten in her class. These winning animals are, Bonnie Buchlyvie, which is owned by Robert Brydon, Seaham Harbour, and at one time owned by Mr. Dunlop; Dunure Footprint, Dunure Index, and The Dunure—stallions—with Dunure Myrene, a two-year-old filly. The championship for stallions went to The Dunure, which is without doubt one of the most phenomenal yearlings ever seen in the breed. He was bred by Messrs. Robertson, Clendrie, Kirkcolm, and his dam, Carina II., 16323, was got by the celebrated Hiawatha 10067. The Dunure was hired by the Central Aberdeenshire Horse-breeding Society for 1913, on remarkable terms, £10 10s. at service, and £10 10s. for a foal. Quite a number of the best breeding horses we have are already hired for 1913, but nothing like this hiring of a yearling has ever before been heard of. The champion female was Stephen Mitchell's Hiawatha mare, Boquhan Lady Peggie, the Cawdor Cup champion of 1910, and the reserve was J. P. Sleigh's first-prize three-year-old mare, Moira, by Baron's Pride, and the Cawdor Cup winner of 1909. The first-prize brood mare this year was J. Ernest Kerr's Cicely, by Baron's Pride, own sister to the noted champion at Peebles in 1906, Scottish Crest. She also won the Cawdor Cup, for which, as former winners, Boquhan Lady Peggie and Moira could not compete. The reserve for that coveted trophy was George Argo's fine mare, Royalette, by Royal Edward. She was first in the yield-mare class. Dunure Myrene was first two-year-old filly, and Stephen Mitchell's Nannie, by the young horse Apukwa, a son of Hiawatha, was first-prize yearling filly.

Highland Cattle, Shorthorns, and Black-face and Cheviot sheep, were other outstanding sections of this splendid show. Highland Cattle are in comparatively few hands. Their chief supporters are noblemen and land-owners in the Highlands who recognize that no other breed can, in many districts, give such a good account of themselves. One of the best folds is that of Craig Sellar, at Ardtornish, in Western Argyllshire. They are splendid cattle, and the cow, Fuirny Queen, has been champion of the breed at the Highland three years in succession, certainly a unique record. The Earl of Southesk is also a keen patron of this most picturesque breed. His fold is to be found at Kinnaird Castle, Brechin, in Forfarshire. There the hardy breed find themselves under much more salubrious surroundings than in their moist habitat of the West Highlands. The Southesk cattle grow to a great size, and the yearlings are usually much more forward in condition and size than those bred in less favorable districts.

Blackface sheep are another striking feature of the national gathering. Mr. Horvatson, of Glenbuck, this year fairly eclipsed all his previous efforts, and showed a magnificent lot of shearlings by the Irish-bred ram, St. Columbia, for which he paid the record price of £250 at the Lanark sale two years ago. He secured champion honors with one of these, admittedly one of the greatest rams ever exhibited. The show Cheviot is still found to best advantage in the flock of John Elliot, Hindhope, Jedburgh. He secured nearly all the leading honors, and was extremely difficult to shake off. He was first in every class but one.

Canada has made a record in Ayrshire cattle, and breeders here are naturally jubilant at the results of the Maxville sale. An average of £67 5s. 5d. for 117 Ayrshires is something unheard of, and no one ever expected to see an Ayrshire bull sell for £520. These are figures usually associated with the Shorthorn, and Ayrshire men until now were content to think of them as something very far off from them. The prices for cows were surely equally noteworthy, £190, £175, £160, and £150, for Ayrshire cows, fairly makes one's mouth water. No doubt the attention now being paid to commercial value has had a sound effect in raising the value of the breed. The milk-record scheme has wrought wonders, and there can be no holding back now. Many who were lukewarm have now become enthusiastic. An Ayrshire is a dairy cow; therefore, she must be cultivated for dairy points. This is the whole philosophy of the business, and the sooner it is universally accepted, the better will it be for the breed at home, as well as abroad.

An important question has been raised here concerning the leakage in our bovine live-stock population. It is admitted that store cattle, or, as you term them, stockers, have been far too high in price, and that those who feed them for the markets as beef stand to lose a deal of money. There is no possibility of profit in cattle-feeding, when your lean cattle cost as much per pound as your fat. The leakage occurs in our calves. Mr. Gray, of Milfield, Alnwick, has proved that about half a million calves are every

year being sacrificed through being slaughtered immediately after birth. The Board of Agriculture has been approached on the subject, and the authorities admit that the situation is grave. Those who supply the public with milk do not wish to be bothered with calf-rearing. It is laborious work, and the sale of whole milk may possibly be less laborious and more remunerative. The calves are, therefore, sacrificed when four or five days old, making an unwholesome kind of cheap food which gives rise to a kind of nausea. The suggestion is that something should be done to make farmers and their wives and families and servants understand how to use milk substitutes in the rearing of calves. Many of these are on the market, and prove quite satisfactory. The saving of this half a million of calves annually would adjust the prices of store cattle and provide something like an adequate supply of these for all the feeders.

Unhappily we have again been handicapped by an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. The Board of Agriculture has been extremely active in stamping out outbreaks when they have appeared, but they have hitherto quite failed to discover the source of these outbreaks. And yet the average citizen has little difficulty in recognizing that the source must be found in the countries wherein the disease is never absent. The outbreaks have always taken place on the eastern seaboard, where intercourse with European countries in which the disease prevails is frequent. That the media of contagion are to be looked for in this intercourse seems undoubted, but no one is just quite sure where to lay the blame in a definite way. Helplessness in locating the source of contagion rather detracts from the zeal of the Board in stamping out the disease when it appears. Prevention is better than cure. "SCOTLAND YET."

### Field Crop Competition.

#### OATS.—Prizewinners.

Middlesex North—Judge, I. B. Henderson, Guelph.

Name.	Address.	Variety.	Points.
1. Hughes Bros.	Falkirk	G. R. Abundance	85½
2. O'Neill Bros.	Falkirk	Hasket	82½
3. A. Stewart	Ailsa Craig	Banner	81
4. R. Cameron	Ailsa Craig	Hasket	79
5. A. E. Rosser	Ailsa Craig	Ligowa	78½
* C. Bean	Brinsley	Siberian	78
† M. Kilgus	Ailsa Craig	Great Dane	77½

\* Highly commended. † Commended.

Middlesex East—Judge, R. E. Mortimer, Honeywood.

Name.	Address.	Variety.	Points.
1. K. Munroe	Glanworth	White Jewel	77½
2. Geo. Riddell	Wilton Grove	Banner	76
3. H. Wilson	Wilton Grove	White Jewel	72½
4. R. H. Harding	Thorndale	Swedish Giant	72
5. H. P. Tanton	Byron	Bumper King	71½
* Jno. Laidlaw	Wilton Grove	Irish White	71½
† D. Ferguson	Odell		70½

\* Highly commended. † Commended.

### Dr. Rutherford Eschews Politics.

Some of our readers may have been surprised to observe in a recent issue of a prominent newspaper a portrait of Dr. J. G. Rutherford (who recently tendered his resignation to the Minister of Agriculture), accompanied by an item stating that he was to enter politics in Alberta as leader of the opposition to the Sifton Administration. Inquiry by "The Farmer's Advocate" has elicited from Dr. Rutherford an express denial of the report that he intends to enter politics. He leaves the Federal agricultural service, however, on September 30th.

### Up Goes Milk.

In consequence of short pastures and expensive cow-feeding, increasing the cost of production, milk has been advanced to nine cents for the quart bottle in Toronto, and bulk milk eight cents retail, the wholesale prices being one cent lower in each case.

The Crop-reporting Board of the Bureau of Statistics of the United States Department of Agriculture estimates, from the reports of the correspondents and agents of the Bureau, that the condition of the cotton crop on July 25th was 89.1 per cent. of a normal, as compared with 88.2 on June 25th, 1911; 75.5 on July 25th, 1910; 71.9 on July 25th, 1909, and 79.4 the average of the past ten years on July 25th.

D. A. Gordon, M. P., managing director of the Dominion Sugar Co., with factories for the manufacture of beet sugar at Wallaceburg and Berlin, Ont., announces that a 10,000-ton factory will be erected in Chatham for operation next season.