

fashion or fad to un- of qualities quite as the popular one in ears to be character- breeders of pedigree for red Shorthorns, with a black tongue d some years ago, e breeds as to con- profitable production. nted, does not apply e popular tendency those of the breeds since the points to been recently given e, if not first, import- d not to any great e endeavor to gain

n called to the im- popularity of the licated by the recent rmer, of letters from the sea, claiming to ely, T. B. Macaulay, eBane, names which ir nationality. The uraged by observing e demanded is being indicates the points as objections to the th Percherons in the asiderable extent in y farmers from the in recent years re-

four heads, namely: ess of hair; (3) white l carriage. The first ost importance, we rs :

raft breed. Quality y without size is, I ble as size without e to an undersized other qualifications, ise as a sire, is to plenty of specimens rge and in every way n into consideration as feet, hair, bone, imal to get a prize be impossible. The and a small animal se. If size (but not ut recognized here- lification, the weight ht itself.

ng draft horses in (Canada) and Scot- no horse,' is a true frequently hear the hardly look at any- standard of judging gard to feet, but the judges do not look ion to weight, type, side of the Atlantic e first to be noted eive much attention, res to be considered When a Scots judge almost entirely at have little chance of ores type and other an mind are also of rk in 'The Horse Chicago, is worth 'No foot, no horse,' s equally true, and

says: "I find that, ulay says is true, ooking all the time in action. That is, it they should not it to fill the harness, stantial meal after hen we require size l, by noon, that the tucked up on the unable to eat. The what is wrong with what is wrong with constitution—what It only requires to hin bones, good feet hampion. In order r the valuable for-



STEERS IN MR. CHAS. SOUTHWELL'S FEED LOT NEAR LACOMBE, ALTA. This bunch should average over 1700 lbs.

eign market, they should be judged by giving 50 points for excellence below the knee and hock, and 50 above that for the qualities of building up a good body. This system of judging would gradually encourage size and substance. Unless breeders attend to this right away, the days of my favorite horse, the Clydesdale, are doomed in Canada. I am sorry to have to write such a letter, and I hope Scotch breeders will make an effort to keep up the name of the Clydesdale in Canada."

to become their property and remain so. If they do not take delivery, they remain in the farmer's hands but at the government's risk. Another idea is to pay the farmer a bounty on every horse he keeps adapted for purposes of national defence. This idea is borrowed from the system of subsidizing ship-owners for certain of their ships which are at the government's call. In any case it is idle to talk about getting farmers to breed army horses for £30 apiece at five years old. Farmers are not philanthropists; they cannot afford luxuries, and if the State is to be defended, the State must pay for the defence.

In connection with this question, one gentleman has advanced a humorous idea. He offers to lend the government a big sum of money at nominal interest to establish horse-breeding establishments in England. He attaches the condition that 300 Hackney stallions should be used in these every year. The idea of mounting the British army on the produce of Hackney stallions is good. The man who makes such a proposition has doubtless plenty of money, but he has only a modicum of common-sense. Hackneys have their own place in equine economy, and an occasional Hunter has been heard of having a Hackney cross in his blood. But the idea of breeding riding horses, chargers and remounts for cavalry and infantry from Hackneys is too absurdly funny. The Hackney is a driving horse or he is nothing. It may be a good thing for driving purposes that he should have "riding shoulders" but the idea of making a riding horse out of a Hackney does not require to be discussed. Ireland is determined to have nothing to do with Hackneys, lest the value of the hunters bred in Ireland should be impaired. This is intelligible policy from the standpoint of the Irish breeder, but nothing more need be said regarding it. At the London Hunter Show the champion was an Irish-bred horse and a lovely specimen of the riding horse at that. The most notable feature of the London Hunter Show of 1909 was the victory in the produce group competition of a "Hunter" sire—that is a horse that would not be accepted for registration in the General Stud Book. The idea in orthodox horse quarters is that there is only one real breed in the world, the English Thoroughbred. A horse may have 18 crosses of thoroughbred blood in his pedigree, but these orthodox persons brand him as a half-bred, because he will not register under Wetherby's rules. The Hunter Improvement Society registers in its Stud Book horses with far less than 18 crosses of thoroughbred blood, and calls these horses Hunter sires. One of these horses easily beat all the thoroughbreds pitted against him as a sire of groups at the recent show.

## STOCK

### Our Scottish Letter

In the little Island, April has begun well. The air is still very cold, but the glass is rising. The extreme moisture is being dried up and although we have not as much dust flying as one likes to see in a genuine spring, if the experience of the first two days continues we will not be so very badly off. The outlook for hill farmers is anything but re-assuring. Lambs are plentiful on the low-lands, and a sorry time they have had of it. They will be appearing on the hills immediately, and the ewes are only in very moderate condition after their wretched experiences in March. Turnips were a big crop for weight and have turned out a poor crop in respect of feeding quality. Potatoes were another bumper crop with a minimum of disease, and the price realized has been disastrously low. Altogether the British farmer faces the agricultural year 1909-1910 distinctly depressed in spirit. He may be a confirmed grumbler, but even his keenest enemies will this year agree that he has good ground for a prolonged and comfortable grumble.

And yet farmers do occasionally even yet make a little money. One of the shrewdest of the Renfrewshire men recently passed away, leaving no less than £19,461. This is a most respectable fortune, and it shows what can still be done in British farming by a man who understands his business and has a good subject to work with. Dairy farmers did well in 1908, and the probability is that they will do equally well in 1909.

#### ARMY REMOUNT PROBLEM

Great Britain is face to face with two problems affecting national defence. The one concerns the building of "Dreadnoughts," and the other the supply of a sufficient reserve of army horses in time of war. About the shipbuilding programme we know little. It appears to be sound policy to have as many "Dreadnoughts" as possible, although they are rather costly toys. The greatest of all British and world interests is peace, and the way to preserve peace is to be prepared for war. This cannot be done without horses, and the question is "When is the government going to tackle this question in dead earnest?" When is Lord Carrington to be provided with funds to start his horse-breeding scheme on a sensible scale? At present the breeder of horses is told that he will get £30 apiece for army horses at five years old, and although he is patriotic, he declines the proposition, and looks to breeding another class of animals altogether. He can always make more money breeding Clydesdales or Shires, and when his young horses have reached two years old he will get £30 apiece for them and a minimum of trouble and expense in looking after them compared with the expense of keeping army horses until they are five years old. But neither Clydesdales nor Shires can mount infantry or cavalry, and some greater inducement than that now offered will require to be presented or the horses wanted for the army will never be bred by the farmer. The War Office must arrange to take the horses at three years old, that is, they are

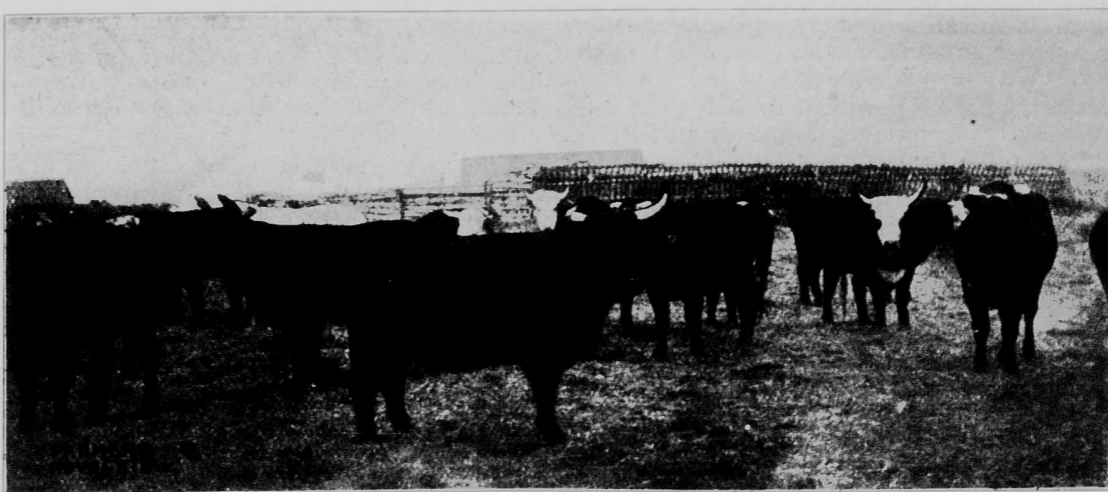
is a startling phenomenon for our sapient municipal rulers in Glasgow. They have built splendid new wharfages and lairage at Merklands, and the cattle do not come. The shipper from Canada and the United States declines to send cattle to Glasgow. The butchers here some years ago made a "ring" and constituted themselves a court of appeal for bidding any member of their company, on pain of ruthless boycotting, to purchase or bid for cattle, sheep, or pigs offered for sale in any market in which representatives of co-operative stores were allowed to purchase or bid. This restricted the area of competition among buyers. Consequently, after losing heavily for years, the shippers have at length abandoned the field, and the Glasgow authorities are left to chew the bitter cud of remorse for their supine attitude towards the boycott. Several prominent members of the butcher trade are on the Town Council, and they manage to dominate its policy in this particular. So far as farmers are concerned, this probably operates to their advantage rather than their disadvantage. For years they have been clamoring for a dead-meat trade in cattle brought over sea, and now without legislative intervention of any kind, they seem likely to get it. As the imports of live cattle have decreased, the imports of dead meat have increased. But it is said the sources of supply are not the same. The Argentine is largely responsible for the dead-meat supplies, and in the United States the future is being viewed with a measure of apprehension. In spite of these omens, favorable to the British farmer, as one would suppose, the meat trade at present is not in a good way. Prices rule low. The demand does not seem to increase, and in spite of symptoms of revival in some departments of trade, live-stock quotations show a steady fall. All this is somewhat puzzling, and at present we don't quite know where we are. At the same time, feeling as between farmers and butchers is running high on account of the demand by the butchers for an express warranty of soundness with each fat animal that they purchase. Because of their determination to enforce this, matters in some markets have come to a deadlock. The situation is strained to a degree, and the north of Scotland farmers have formed themselves into a Defence Association.

#### WHO PAYS THE DUTY

The question of the incidence of tariff rate is being argued here in connection with the exportation of potatoes to the United States. Uncle Sam puts on a tariff of 38-11 per ton, and as we had a bumper crop and little disease in 1908, some farmers and merchants have been shipping to the United States. The duty imposed by the intelligent, mean-spirited Yankee is almost equivalent to the price per ton that the farmer here can obtain for his potatoes. Consequently Uncle Sam's children are paying from £5 to £5-10 per ton for potatoes, an abundant supply of which could reach him at the much easier figure of from £3 to £3-15 per ton if it were not for his irrational tariff. He pays it himself, but its existence prevents many here from shipping who would gladly do so. The United States would consume plenty British potatoes if they could get them at a sufficiently cheap rate, but most people are disposed to fight shy of food which costs £5 to £5-10 per ton.

#### SHORTHORN SALES

We have had quite a number of Shorthorn sales lately in the north of England. Prices ruled fair. The South American buyers were the best operators. They purchased the best at all the sales. Messrs. Macdonald, Fraser & Co. Ltd., opened a new sale at Darlington on 11th March, and a week later Messrs. Thornton & Co., London, conducted their usual spring sale at York. Another sale takes place shortly at Beverly in Yorkshire, and a very notable sale will be held at Caledon, Co. Tyrone, Ireland, on 16th inst. This will be the most notable sale held for many a day. The dispersion of so notable a herd as that of Caledon is a matter of widespread public interest. The great bull "Sign of Riches" made the Caledon herd, and the constituents of the existing herd are wholly Scots. SCOTLAND YET."



PART OF THE BUNCH OF SPAYED HEIFERS. Being fed by Mr. Riley of High River.