

FARM BULLETIN.

Wine and Weather.

BY PETER MCARTHUR.

Have you noticed how plentiful the dandelion blossoms have been this year? Well, there is something else to notice. I do not know whether it is because the profusion of blossoms offered too strong a temptation, or because prohibition is coming in force in the fall or because "The Farmer's Advocate" published a recipe for making dandelion wine but there are indications that much of this brew is being put away this season. I notice that in strict families they call it dandelion cordial but I imagine that Omar would regard it under any name as a fair sample of "The old familiar juice." Of course dandelion wine sounds harmless—sounds something like a "yarb tea"—but I dunno. There are traditions of other blossoms that have been made to bite like a serpent and sting like an adder. you know what Stevenson tells us about "Heather Ale" whose name sounds less potent than dandelion wine:

From the bonnie bells of heather
They brewed a drink long syne,
Was sweeter far than honey,
Was stronger far than wine.
They brewed it and they drank it,
And they lay in a blessed swoon
For days and days together
In their dwellings under ground.

Did you get that "Blessed swoon." Heather also must have been some potion. If they bring dandelion wine up to that degree of efficiency I am afraid the prohibitionists will have to do some more "strafing."

A couple of weeks ago many farmers in this district gave up all hope of getting in the amount of oats they had intended sowing and began to make plans for an extra lot of corn, so that they would have grain and feed of some kind. But the wet weather has kept on so persistently that now they are giving up hope of getting in even the usual amount of corn. It is really impossible to do anything on the land with conditions as they are. There is water everywhere and even fields that are thoroughly tile drained are unfit to work. Well-informed farmers tell me that not more than one third of the seeding and planting that was planned for this spring has been possible. There will be no greater production as far as this part of the country is concerned and considerable thrift will be needed to make ends meet. But this discouraging situation is one that no amount of foresight could have avoided. We are helpless in the face of the weather.

The amount of rain we have been having has brought forth a great deal of discussion about the probable cause. There are many who believe that wet weather may be due to the terrific and continuous discharges of heavy artillery on the battle-fields of Europe. Although the theory has points of interest I do not think there is any scientific evidence in its favor. Some years ago, during a protracted drouth, elaborate experiments were made with high explosives in Texas and a number of other states. Heavy charges of dynamite were exploded in the upper air but no results were obtained. The work of the rainmakers merely contributed to the gayety of nations and besides a lot of newspaper fun there were even comic operas written on the subject. Anyway, the experiments convinced everyone concerned that rainfalls could not be brought on by the discharge of artillery or explosives. And I remember that some scholarly person took the trouble to make a review of history to find if rainfalls during battles had been mentioned. To his surprise he found that the falling of rain during battles had been noticed long before the invention of artillery. Even Herodotus had mentioned the curious fact that battles were accompanied by storms and rains. This study gave the discussion a curious twist as it seemed to make the belief a part of the oldest forms of superstition, but a military critic made a suggestion that warring offered the true explanation. He suggested that warring generals would probably think it good strategy to make an attack during a storm as they would be likely to take the enemy unprepared. They would regard a storm as good cover for an attack and this practice would gradually give rise to the belief that battles were always accompanied by storms. And when artillery began to thunder that the belief would be strengthened. While the subject is a timely one to pass the time with on rainy days I am afraid there is no real ground for the belief that our unusual wet weather is in any way due to the war.

The Horse Ambulance.

The Horse Ambulance subscribed for by the various Horse-breeding Societies of Canada and costing upwards of \$5,000 has been turned over to the military authorities. The outfit consists of 16 saddle horses, 4 Clydesdales, military harness, saddles, extra braces, blankets, utensils, medicine chests, surgical instruments, the latest form of ambulance with slings, a transportation wagon, and all necessary accessories. The work of the 16 light horses will be to send and remove wounded horses from the scene of fighting while the ambulance, drawn by the four Clydesdales, is designed to supply

first aid to those seriously hurt and that may be saved by prompt attention. H. M. Robinson, Toronto, is secretary of the Committee and John A. Boag of Queensville is chairman. The Blue Cross is doing for horses what the Red Cross is doing for men at the front.

The Watt-Miller-Gardhouse Shorthorn Sale.

One of the best Shorthorn sales in the history of many years was held at Elora on May 10, when 73 high-class individuals of the breed changed hands in less than four hours' time for a total of \$29,045. These valuable animals were selections from the herds of J. A. Watt, Elora; J. M. Gardhouse, Weston, and Robert Miller, Stouffville. These live-stock breeders are well-known in Shorthorn circles, and the quality of the stock offered on June 10 will still further advertise the three family names which have long been associated with the Shorthorn breed in America. The sale prices appended will amply describe the character of the different lots led before a gathering of buyers from all over Ontario, from Saskatchewan, from Alberta and from many states of the Republic to the south. However, in passing, we may record here that over 70 Shorthorns of equal quality have not been assembled at one auction sale in Canada for many years. Some of the females were a good useful kind for a commercial herd, and others were capable of producing young that could win in strong competition as they themselves had done in recent years. Still other younger ones were of show-ring calibre, and several Ontario breeders made purchases to strengthen their exhibition herds for the coming season. Cows or heifers in calf to Gainford Marquis were in demand and sold at very substantial prices. The morning was fine, but, as usual this spring, a storm arose before noon which cast a cloud over the event as well as the landscape. However a large crowd had gathered by noon and filled a huge tent erected for the purpose. When the sale got well under way the accommodations proved entirely inadequate to house the people assembled, but by this time the sun was again shining, and breeders were buying cattle regardless of sun, wind and weather. Representatives from the United States left \$6,280 and took sixteen lots; Alberta got two lots for \$520, and in addition the bull purchased by J. C. Elliott for \$500 will go to a ranch in that country; three lots went to Saskatchewan for \$925. It will thus be seen that the majority of the animals sold remained in Ontario, and this is particularly true regarding those of greatest value. Only four, selling for more than \$500, left the province. The grand average was \$397.87 for the 73 sold. Sixty females averaged \$401.41, and 13 bulls averaged \$336.16.

Several lots caused considerable excitement when led into the ring. One was Miss Clipper 3rd with a splendid roan heifer calf, sired by Gloster Champion, at her side. John Miller, of Brougham, paid \$1,125 for the pair, and, judging by the prices paid by everyone, he got a cheap cow. Another sensation was Countess Selma 2nd, a Kiblean Beauty-bred cow in calf to Trout Creek Wonder. As a two-year-old in calf to Trout Creek Wonder in several States of the Union, and her heifer calf was first at the leading Canadian shows in 1915. She cost Mitchell Bros., of Burlington, an even \$1,000. These same breeders bought Red Missie and her heifer calf for another \$1,000. Red Missie has produced winners, and she was carrying a calf by Gainford Marquis. One of the most promising things sold was the junior yearling heifer, Evelyn. She was large, smooth and attractive, and we shall be surprised if she does not give a good account of herself in the show herd of A. F. & G. Auld, Guelph, who purchased her for \$825. Still another attractive offering was Missie May, with a young bull calf at her side, bearing such a resemblance to Gainford Marquis that it was named Marquis Again. The pair were bought by C. J. McMaster, Altona, Ill., for \$1,010.

Bulls were not so much in demand as females, but some good prices were paid. Browndale winner, a typey, promising, young fellow by Browndale, went to R. & S. Nicholson, Parkhill, for \$520. J. C. Elliott, M. P. P., Glencoe, bought Monkland Jim H. for \$500. Cecilia Sultan, first in the junior yearling class at Toronto last year and junior champion, went to the herd of P. M. Chapelle, Rochester, N. Y., at an even \$600.

At the beginning of the event short and appropriate addresses were delivered by Robert Miller, Manager of the sale; Hon. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture for Alberta; F. W. Harding, Secretary of the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association, and John Bright, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner. Carey M. Jones, of Chicago, assisted by Capt. T. E. Robson and three other auctioneers sold the 73 head of cattle in less than four hours.

Following is a list of the animals sold and the names of the purchasers:

Cows and Heifers.

Princess Royal 2nd, Pettit Bros., Freeman, Ont.	\$ 500
Ury's Star 8th, Theo. Martin, Bellevue, Iowa	265
White Princess, W. G. Wilkinson, Tuckford, Sask.	375
Wimple Marchioness, A. D. Flinton, Kansas City	520
Mina Girl, Theo. Martin	305
Beauty 36th, Frank Edwards, Clinton, Ohio	360
Matchless E., Robt. Phalen, Neponset, Ill.	610

Countess Selma 2nd, Mitchell Bros., Burlington.	1,000
Roan Princess, C. J. McMaster, Altona, Ill.	400
Evelyn, A. F. & G. Auld, Guelph	825
Maxwalton Clara, W. A. Dryden, Brooklin	775
Lavender Anoka, W. A. Dryden	375
Meadow Queen, Geo. R. Mooney, Inverness, Que.	175
Burnbrae Lavender, John Miller, Jr., Ashburn	400
Duchess Gwynne 8th, P. M. Chapelle, Rochester, N. Y.	200
Red Missie, Mitchell Bros.	1,000
Bridal Bud, Geo. E. Martin, Aurora, Ill.	415
Red Queen, R. S. Robson & Son, Denfield	170
Jealousy 4th, Harry McGee, Toronto	900
Princess Royal 13th, G. W. Anderson, Bogner	350
Lovely Belle, Hon. Duncan Marshall, Edmonton, Alta.	230
Oak Bluff Matchless, John Miller Jr.	450
Nonpareil 109th, Geo. Amos & Sons, Moffat	650
Countess of Gloster, H. Bursell, Branchton	170
Irvinedale Matchless, A. G. Farrow, Oakville	280
Kilwinning Lady, Geo. Ferguson, Elora	500
Flora C. 12th, E. A. Hales, Guelph	410
Gold Dust, W. E. Gibb, Embro	325
Lady Rosemary, Jas Douglas, Caledonia	350
Mina Princess 2nd, Theo. Martin	205
Primrose 11th, Theo. Martin	235
Miss Clipper 3rd, John Miller, Brougham	1,125
Daydream, Harry McGee	395
Lady of the Boyne 13th, John Watt & Son, Elora	560
Miss Clipper 4th, Theo. Martin	280
Marabelle, Harry McGee	390
Scottish Maid 57th, J. A. Slighthome, Mountain	335
Nonpareil Lady 14th, W. B. McGowan, Orton	175
Village Belle, P. H. Switzer, St. Mary's	200
Lancaster Maid, A. G. Farrow	200
Merry Tulip, W. E. Gibb	390
Beauty 39th, J. C. Andrews, Indiana	200
Red Blossom, Harry McGee	390
Lady Lind 6th, Percy Sutherland, Longwood	260
Barmpton Lady, John Watt & Son	325
Glen Crescent Crimson Flower 8th, E. A. Hales	290
Missie of Walnut Grove 2nd, Geary Bros., Elora	435
Mysie of Ivanhoe, A. F. & G. Auld	425
Walnut Missie 4th, Harry McGee	410
Irvine Side Merry Lass, A. F. & G. Auld	600
Bridal Ruby, Geo. Mooney	280
Mayflower 31st, G. A. Switzer, St. Mary's	175
Martha 10th, John Miller	225
Cecilia 15th, Arthur Sutherland, Longwood	400
Miss Primrose 14th, G. A. Switzer	245
Mollie Stamford, Oliver Bros., Galt	310
Duchess of Gloster 17th, W. G. Wilkinson	275
Elmira Beauty 4th, W. G. Wilkinson	275
Canadian Roan Lady 8th, Donald Campbell, Mitchell	380
Missie May, C. J. McMaster	1,010

Bulls.

Clan Alpine 2nd, Mr. Robinson, St. Mary's	\$ 250
Oak Bluff Monarch, Geo. R. Mooney	430
Cecilia Sultan, P. M. Chapelle	600
Jilt Refiner, Jas. Thompson, Fergus	145
Prince Mayflower, Chas. McCrae Hamilton, Montana	325
Monkland Jim H., J. C. Elliott, M. P. P., Glencoe	500
Minstrel, Thos. Ingram, Manitowaning	325
Browndale Winner, R. & S. Nicholson, Parkhill	520
Spicy Sultan, Hon. Dun. Marshall	290
Lavender Burnbrae, Geo. E. Martin	350
Bull Calf, by Oakland Star, T. Baker, Hampton	230
Challenge Plate 4th, Jas. McGillawee, Shakespeare	225
Bull Calf by Roan Winner, David Martin, Wallenstein	170

Seeding is Delayed in Eastern Ontario.

Farming operations have been seriously delayed, in the Eastern counties of the province, by the frequent heavy rains. It has been one soaking rain after another all spring and much of the soil has scarcely dried sufficiently to permit of cultivation. Where the soil has natural underdrainage or is slightly rolling some seeding was done in fairly good time, but when a representative of this paper was in Dundas and Stormont counties on June 8, there were scores of farms on which not a kernel of grain had been planted, and under ideal conditions it would be several days before any work could be done on the land. On farms that were thoroughly underdrained seeding operations had progressed favorably. A considerable acreage of oats will still be sown once the land dries and the acreage of corn for silage purposes will be materially increased over previous years. Some are preparing for planting corn before sowing oats now that it is so late in the season. As dairying is the chief industry, corn is relied upon to supply succulent feed during the winter. Practically every farm has a large silo and on some there are two. Pasture is good and prospects for hay were never better. Clover wintered well, but alfalfa suffered severely. With a good supply of hay, silage and roots the farmers feel that their stock will not suffer. The prospects for fruit are excellent and a good deal of spraying has been done between showers. With good growing weather and a favorable fall season the effects of the backward spring will be largely overcome.