

Our Scottish Letter.

I fear remissness must be charged against me, but possibly the wealth of material now to be presented may compensate for silence. Weather conditions since the beginning of the year have been none too favorable for those engaged in agriculture. About the New Year we had a sharp frost, but it did not last long. Since then we have had rain storms, with occasional hurricanes. Farm labor is well advanced in some places and not well advanced in others. In the Scottish Midlands hard weather was experienced, while in the West we had a remarkable variety of weather samples. In the far North potatoes were not all lifted at the New Year, and things generally were backward. Labor troubles are universal and, in almost every industry, we are face to face with difficulties due to diminished production. Complaint is universal that shortened hours have meant shortened production, yet the Government seems resolved on the mad scheme of making a statutory forty-eight-hour week universal. How this is to improve economic conditions nobody seems to know, and its advocates do not seem to care. The miners are resolute on nationalization of mines, and the Government meantime resolutely have said "No." How long they will continue in that mood is problematical.

Meantime the farmer has his own troubles. He is extremely unpopular. The idea is widely prevalent that he is profiteering to an abnormal extent. It would be contrary to all experience were the producer of the radical wants of humanity not to prosper in times of national scarcity. The question is, has he proposed unduly? and the answer must be in the negative. He has been controlled in respect of almost everything he has produced. Milk, meat, wool, roots, and grain, have all been subject to control. The farmer during the war had not the making of his own price in respect to any of these products. Milk was early put under control, then wool was concerned, and later meat and cereals. In the beginning of this month the control was taken off milk, and in this city it almost at once receded in price by five-pence per gallon, or 1¼ pence per quart. Wool was liberated prior to 1919 clip coming upon the market, and almost at once Cheviot wool bounded upwards to an unprecedented figure, and other kinds in sympathy. At present the question of withdrawing the meat control is being keenly debated. The Government guaranteed a maximum price until July 4, 1920, and the general opinion of farmers is favorable to control running its course. On the other hand, some are of the opinion that it would be better to let prices assume a natural and economic course forthwith. It is admitted that somebody will be hurt when control is withdrawn. The only question is the date at which control can be withdrawn with the minimum of injury to anybody and everybody. The problem is complex, and those who understand it best are most ready to admit its difficulties. Meanwhile the public have to be reckoned with. The milk control had to be withdrawn because it was impossible to justify a high price to the consumer when the supply exceeded the demand. At the moment a similar condition holds in respect of meat of secondary quality.

SHOW-RING VS. MILK PRODUCTION IN DAIRY CATTLE.
Ayrshire cattle breeders have had a strenuous time during the past few months. I suppose many fanciers of the breed in Canada understand the position here,

but others may not. Perhaps about fifty years ago special attention began to be paid in the show yard to the formation of the milkvessel and teats. It was found that the vessel on udder that was carried well forward on the belly and tucked well up behind was best adapted for enduring purposes. Gradually as this particular formation was most difficult to attain it became the show-yard ideal. It was also found that this "tight" vessel and a small, corky teat went together. No one in his senses deliberately set himself to breed small teats that could only be milked with the finger and thumb but experience proved that the tight vessel demanded in the show yard had the small teat as its associate, and show-yard fancy dominated a section of the breed. But along with this baneful fancy there went something else which proved disastrous. The cow that was designed for show purposes could not possibly be put to her full powers as a milk producer because immediately she "went to milk," as it was termed, she became useless for the show-yard fancy. Hence there was in time developed within the best dairy breed in the world a race or type of show cows which won prizes in proportion as they were of diminishing value as milk producers. This show-yard cult very nearly ruined the breed. Happily, the great rank and file of breeders paid little heed to show-yard fads. They bred good dairy stock,



Not Even Good Browsing.

Four months later all classes of stock will enjoy the freedom of the woods, but there is little comfort now.

and left the show yard type severely alone. Amongst breeders who acted on this principle perhaps the late Robert Wallace, Auchinbrain, was pre-eminent. Others, not breeders, but extensive users of dairy cows, like the late John Speir, of Newton, Glasgow, saw the value of milk recording, and, after many tentative efforts, at long last Mr. Speir got the Highland and Agricultural Society to take the matter in hand. The directors of that body under Mr. Speir's enlightened leadership fostered the institution of milk record societies, and in the end of the day these societies have become self-sustaining.

But another aspect of the question calls for notice. Recognizing that the concentration of attention on the formation of vessel and teats was leading to the ignoring of size, scale and style in the Ayrshire cow, a section of breeders began to devote attention to the head and horns, style, and carriage, depth and length of quarters of the Ayrshire, ignoring altogether the underline and especially the formation of vessel and teats. The issue was that the patrons of the breed became divided into two camps—yield stock, and milk stock men. When the Milk Record scheme became general it was gradually found that the best yields were obtained not from the dairies which attached chief importance to vessel and teats, but from those which gave heed to the style and constitution of the cow. As it has been sentimentally expressed, "the milk stock (so called) were chiefly

noteworthy for not yielding milk to profit." After much controversy it was decided a year ago to constitute a hybrid committee of leaders of both sections, and draw up a scale of points for judges, combining the desirable points (1) of the milk stock—a good shapely, lengthy vessel and long, soft, easily milked teats; (2) of the "yield stock"—so-called—style, size, straightness of back and length of quarters, and (3) of the milk records, and their testimony to the milk yield of the female herself, her dam and two grandams, and so on. The committee met and in due time the scale was agreed upon, and it was determined that it should become operative in 1921. Meanwhile the Breed Society recognized that the new scale of points could only be honored by those who believed in it, and they drew up a panel of approved judges, which they have asked the leading societies to accept. Unfortunately, the panel did not contain one single name of a recognized judge of what is called the "milk stock" party. That party set to work to defeat the adoption of the panel system at the annual meeting of the Ayrshire Agricultural Association, and succeeded. They are in high glee over their victory, and the next move in the game is awaited with interest. The leader of the "re-forming" party is Adam W. Montgomerie, Lessnessock, and the leader of the "milk stockmen" is T. C. Lindsay, Aitkenbrae, Monkton, both in Ayrshire. The unfortunate business is that when these two gentlemen sit down to discuss the matter they agree in almost every essential. Each is owner of a first-class herd, but while Mr. Montgomerie is a whole-hearted supporter of Milk Records, Mr. Lindsay, if not actively hostile, is only lukewarm in his support. Meanwhile the British-Friesian breed grows steadily in popular favor, and many who were supporters of the Ayrshire have become patrons of the "Black and White" Dutch cattle. Their great recommendation is their milk yield, capacious milk bags, and serviceable, long teats.

Recently numerous sales have taken place of both Ayrshires and British-Friesians. At the Paisley sale of the latter, 133 head made an average of £98 3s. 7d. each. At Garraugh, Cumnock, a draft of 30 Ayrshires made £90 6s. 8d. each. At the annual sale of bull calves from the Auchinbrain herd of D. & W. Wallace, 22 made the fine average of £97 16s. 4d. At the Eglinton Mains sale of Lord Eglinton, on Saturday last, the high average of £138 12s. was made for 32 head.

Milk questions are attracting great attention. A propaganda was carried on for three days in Scotland by Wilfred Buckley, of the Clean Milk Society, Soho Square, London. Mr. Buckley maintains that milk should be sold according to grade in respect of freedom from disease germs, or unclean bacteria, irrespective of the butter-fat content of the milk. His argument is that the quality of the milk, i. e., its butter-fat content, is beyond human control, and therefore no one should be held responsible for its condition, whereas the cleanliness of milk is well within human control and therefore the sale of unclean milk should be made a penal offence. One recognizes a large measure of truth in this way of presenting the matter. On the other hand, it will hardly do to put a premium on the sale of clean milk poor in quality. There is no reason why the two things should not go hand in hand. One undesigned result of Mr. Buckley's tour has been to give great encouragement to those who are out to defeat the presumptive milk standard. Mr. Buckley says frankly that no man can guarantee the butter-fat content of his milk two days in succession.

HORSES SELL HIGH.

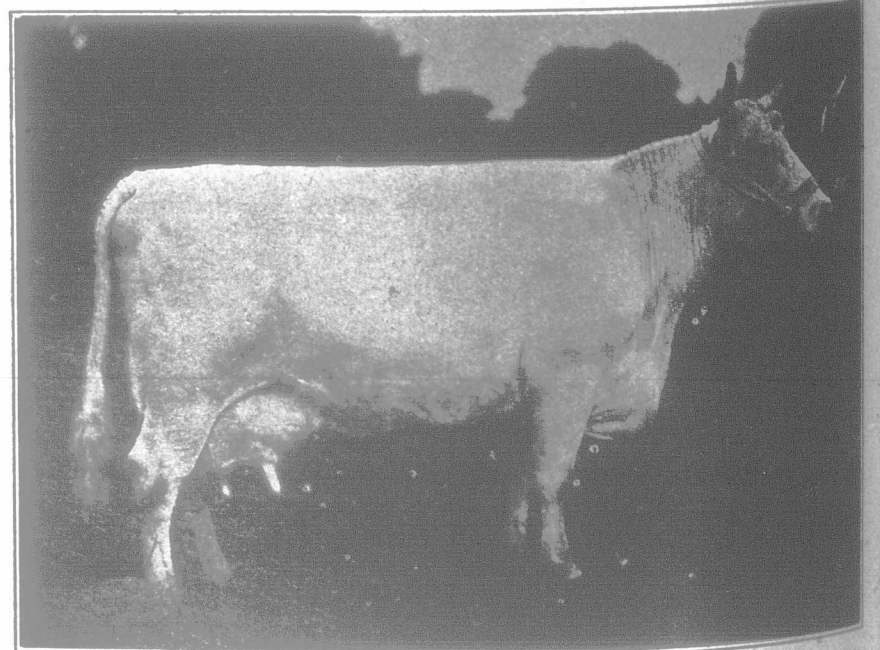
Clydesdale business is brisk and we are within three weeks of the Glasgow Stallion Show. Shire horse breeders have had a record sale, at the Pendley Stud Farms, in Herefordshire. On the occasion 35 head made the splendid average of £722. It will be long before a figure like that is eclipsed.

PERTH AND ABERDEEN SALES.

But all such figures are thrown into the shade by the results of the spring bull sales of Aberdeen-Angus



Large Black Sow and Litter.



Missle Thruor, Dual-purpose Shorthorn, First at Royal Show.

and Short details of o Meantime at Perth—Guelph, On with Joseph Aberdeen Knight, V A week Angus record price Auchterard Perth, 204 £135 15s., a ago for 101 exes on the 12s. 4d. a deen-Angus Strathearn, recently bo chaser at P L. Wallace, of the fam Edgote.) Aberdeen-A Eclintus, of heifer, viz, yearling an dalloch had for seven bu made an av average wa Messrs. M Mr. Allan, extraordinary Angus heife In spite Before the Gillivray K which von MacGillivray year at Per hills Comet Captain Ma bull calves January cal 1,800 guine heifer of the She was br and for four astonishing herd averag Cluny Castl next £1,239 Millhills, C average of 612 a year year was £3

Canada

The annual Association Manitoba, o Jas. D. Mc representative found the d views by let which the A concluded w to the Asso Angus cattl the Nationa clearly that percentage other breed the futurity, Angus calve years, and office and th When th disposed of new policy pointment o decided to would be c parts of Can central will o each provin of deciding w sale to be ann of the centr Angus Breed Toronto, on head of selec association a interest grea sales throug nounced at The Asso that the ce endeavor to matters conc It has been the Associat and the gen cattle. Jas. the Associat Vice-Preside Bowman, Jo