

mare, Boulge Dora, sold to J. S. Agnew, Rougham.

#### BOARDS OF AGRICULTURE ON THE MILK & DAIRIES BILL.

The bill to create a Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture passed the second reading in the Commons without a division. Until now, agriculture has had no direct representative in the Commons, as have had other Government departments, and this lack will now be remedied. The new office is especially welcome to farmers, in view of the many new duties imposed on the Board of Agriculture by the Small-holdings Act.

The Government are to introduce a bill creating a Scottish Board of Agriculture.

Another bill now before Parliament, Mr. Burns' Milk and Dairies Bill, has been widely discussed by various associations. Much opposition is manifested to the rigid control proposed for the local Government Board, and payment of compensation out of local funds is also opposed. A deputation has waited upon Mr. Burns, but he holds out no hope of amendment in these cases.

Vigorous opposition is offered to the clause that proposes to prohibit the sale of milk from any farm where the supply has caused, or is likely to cause, an infectious disease. This is compared to closing a grocer's shop because one tin of some food is found to be bad. There is no objection to a search for the cause of a taint, and the taking of reasonable precautions. As the clause stands, a medical officer miles away may close a dairy on a report, and stop the whole milk supply from being marketed.

Considerable powers are to be conferred on the medical inspector, who is to be appointed by a local council, of whom a majority may be dairy farmers. It is objected that such an inspector could hardly do his duty impartially. The suggestion is made that inspectors should be under the control of central authorities.

#### THE YORKSHIRE SHOW.

This year's Yorkshire Show deserted the larger towns of the country, and was held at Beverley, a typical agricultural town in the East Riding. The entries of stock were about an average of recent years, and most of the well-known exhibitors were represented. Horses were a capital section. Amongst the cattle, Shorthorns were excellent, especially the females, though fewer in number than usual. Sheep were in greater number, and unusually fine, the East Riding "wolds" being well to the front. A marked feature was the extensive display of implements, seeds, manures, etc. The live-stock entries totalled 688—smaller than usual, owing to the absence of pigs, which were kept out by the Board of Agriculture regulations. The Shire Society's medal for brood mares was won quite easily by Tom Kay's Ridgeway Forest Queen. In close competition, Arthur Hall's Copmanthorpe Performer, a splendid goer, headed the Hackney stallion class, and took the Society's medal. Lord Middleton's bull calf, Birdsall's Croesus, took the Shorthorn Society's special prize. Superb weather favored the show, and the attendance was moderately good. Next year's show will be held at Leeds.

#### WELSH NATIONAL SHOW.

The Welsh National Show had grand weather for the fixture. The principal feature was the good quality of the ponies. Horses were rather poor. Hunters were few, but Hackneys were a good class. The Prince of Wales' Challenge Cup for best cob of the old Welsh type, was awarded to a brown cob stallion, High Stepping Gomar 2nd, owned by Evan Davies, Lampeter. Shorthorns were of average quality. The special for best bull was secured by F. Miller's old bull, Royal Duke, with Sir Richard Cooper's Silver Mint 2nd in next place. Welsh cattle were few in number, but of fine quality. The Society's medal went to the University College of North Wales. Herefords were the strongest cattle class. The breed special went to Mr. Faber's bull, Rob Roy. A close second was the King's bull, Admiral. The sheep section was well filled, native breeds being present in great force. Pigs were few in numbers.

#### BET-SUGAR INDUSTRY FOR ENGLAND.

Englishmen are greater consumers of sugar than any other nationality, but none is produced in England, though large stretches of land are eminently suited to the culture of sugar beets. Germany has made a wonderful success in the production of beet sugar, and experiments prove that beets, carrying a higher percentage of sugar than German-grown, can be grown in England. Steps are being taken to remedy this lack of sugar production, and at Sleaford, in Lincolnshire, the movement has progressed so far that a site for a factory has been secured, which has capital railway facilities. Contracts for 1,300 acres of beets have been signed, and when the guarantee reaches 3,000 acres, capital for building the factory is ready. An interesting feature of the scheme is a proposal that the beet-growers shall share in the profits after a certain dividend has been attained. The company offers 14s. 6d. per ton for beets, and one grower claims an average

growth of 17 to 18 tons per acre, and has grown as much as 25 tons. Another grower claims that English beets carry 17.3 units of sugar, against 15 units of foreign beets.

#### BUTCHERS' BOYCOTT A FAILURE.

The boycott of English meat, started by the butchers in May has fallen flat, and farmers are able to dispose of their meats without any warranty. It is said that the butchers are awaiting the coming in force, on January 1st, next, of the new order regarding tuberculous animals, issued by the Board of Agriculture.

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Foreign trade returns for July were more favorable than for many months. Imports increased by £3,547,573 over July, 1908, and exports of British and Irish produce increased by £1,781,515. The largest item of increase in imports was for wheat, which was £1,500,000 more. Butter and meat showed declines. Manufactured articles accounted for the increase in exports.

#### FUTURE OF BRITISH STOCK-BREEDING.

The future of live-stock breeding was the theme of an address by Sir Gilbert Greenall, a director of the Royal Agricultural Society, at the Warrington Show. Sir Gilbert claimed that it is difficult to say how long we shall have pedigree stock in Britain. The burdens put upon land, the breaking-up of many large estates, and the cutting up into a general system of small holdings of our large farms, would put an end to pedigree-stock breeding. If we were to have the country cut up into small farms, where were stock-breeders to go? They would have to go abroad, where they would not be interfered with. Sir Gilbert is unduly pessimistic. If small holdings did mean ruin to pedigree-stock breeding, the breeder has still many generations to prosper in at the present state of progress in acquiring small holdings.

F. DEWHIRST.

#### Oats and Millet for Pasture.

Towards the end of July there comes a period when pastures fail. Even if not eaten bare, as in too many instances is the case, the grass has lost its greenness, and is not relished as it was, and as it will be again when freshened by September rains. Left-over silage comes in particularly useful at this season, and its use is becoming more general. A soiling crop of green oats and peas has been recommended time and again

white grubs as to be almost useless. He plowed it up, and about June 15th sowed it with oats and Hungarian grass, using about 12 bushels of oats and 3 bushels of Hungarian grass seed. In six weeks the crop was knee-high, and stock was turned in. Mr. Wheaton has been delighted with the way the stock has since thrived, and with the opportuneness of the pasture coming in just when other pasture had failed. He has been agreeably surprised, also, with the amount of pasturage such a crop has afforded.

#### Necrobacillosis: A New Disease.

The officials of the United States Bureau of Animal Industry have a new field of activity, through the announcement of a new disease discovered among the sheep of Wyoming, known as the lip-and-leg disease. The complaint is known among scientists as necrobacillosis, but with the advent of the ailment in Wyoming it was nicknamed lip-and-leg disease, because of the parts of the animal affected. It has no relation to the hoof-and-mouth disease, which raged in a number of the eastern States during the past year. Officials of the Department of Agriculture say they are at a loss to know how the disease became so widespread in Wyoming, as, so far as is known, it was not brought here from any other country. It is probable, they explain, that a single animal came into contact with other cattle in transportation, and that the others became infected in the cars, where slight scratches of the skin are almost unavoidable.

By U. S. Secretary Wilson's orders, eight counties of Wyoming have been placed under stringent quarantine, which effectively shuts off trade in cattle from the infected counties. The counties under the ban lie in the section where most of the Wyoming sheep are raised.

## THE FARM

### A Corn-breeding Experiment.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Some of your readers may be interested in hearing of a little experiment in corn-breeding that I have been making during the last few years.

In the year 1906, my field crop of corn consisted of about three acres Leaming, three acres White-cap, and one acre Longfellow (flint), in parallel strips. After filling my silo, I husked about 300 bushels of ears—all of the Longfellow, nearly an acre of the Leaming, and about an acre of the White-cap that grew adjacent to the Longfellow. Knowing that this latter would be crossed more or less with the flint variety, it occurred to me that something combining the good qualities of both varieties might be got from the hybrids. I therefore selected from the White-cap 16 ears which showed slight indications of having been fertilized by the Longfellow, but which conformed very closely to the dent corn type.

In 1907 these sixteen ears were planted in six

teen rows in my garden, the seed from each row coming from a single ear. From the beginning, the different rows exhibited the most marked variations in height and vigor of plants, in position and type of ear, and in the kernel, although the ears used for seed were almost identical in appearance. When tasselling time came, all barren stalks and inferior plants (principally those showing marked tendencies towards the flint variety) were detasselled, and when fully ripe, each row was separately harvested.

In the spring of 1908 I again made a selection of twenty ears from the best rows, rejecting all of the distinctly flint type, and sowed a seed-plot of twenty rows. These rows, unlike their predecessors, showed very little variation, and I did very little detasselling. The crop was excellent, and was allowed to mature fully. From the ten or so bushels of ears produced by this plot, I selected about half for my field crop, and again chose twenty of the best ears for my 1909 seed-plot.

This year's plot was sown on May 27th, just



Nonpareil Bud II.

Shorthorn heifer. First in two-year-old class, and reserve champion, at the Royal Show, 1909.

for bridging over the dry period, and no one ever disputes its value, but, somehow, very few farmers seem to put into practice the advice to have such a crop in readiness, advice which they admit is good. There seems to be a special disinclination to the extra labor of handling a soiling crop in the busy harvest season, for most people will endure to see the flesh and milk fail for a while, rather than wheel or haul green fodder at that time. Later in the season, when corn becomes fit for feeding, there seems not to be such an objection to handling green stuff, for the practice of feeding corn in the fall months is common, and growing. This may be in part because the shrinkage in flesh, after a month of dry pasture, becomes so noticeable that it is realized that something must be done to stop the loss. Whatever the reason, the facts seem to be as stated. The experience of James Wheaton, of Middlesex Co., Ont., this past summer may be of some value to such as usually have neither silage nor green soiling crop during the month of August. Mr. Wheaton had a 10-acre pasture field so badly eaten by