

Our Scottish Letter.

Scottish agriculturists are having a lively time just now opposing a new move on the part of the motor-car devotees. They have advanced a theory that all slow-moving vehicles on public roads must be lit up after dusk. This is a very serious proposition for farmers. In harvest time, work has often to be carried on after dusk, and the grain-laden carts have frequently to pass along a portion of the public road. If the new proposal should become law, such carts would require to be lit up, and it is neither easy to see how this could be done nor to justify the expenditure involved if it were done. Advice is plentiful in favor of the adoption of methods pursued by the Danes. It is worthy of notice that these astute gentlemen absolutely prohibit motor traffic after dusk, and even in daylight the maximum speed is eight miles an hour. Here we have cars frequently driven along the public roads at a speed of thirty miles an hour. As our roads were never made for fast mechanical traffic, it is obvious that great dangers are incurred by those using them for ordinary traffic under such circumstances. Many a flock of sheep has been ruthlessly butchered by these motorists; pedestrians are not safe; and it has become almost impossible to live in houses on the roadside. Instead of motorists getting greater facilities, there is a growing feeling that their present liberties should be curtailed until roads can be altered so as to admit of motor traffic being carried on without detriment to other users of the roads.

Ireland has often been described as the spoiled child of the British Empire. She is continually asking, and as frequently obtaining all she wants, and sometimes more than she needs. The public purse provides the peasantry over a wide area with seed potatoes, and tenders for supplying such are invited from all and sundry. The economic condition of Ireland at present affords a pleasant contrast to the past. Twenty years ago the land was seething with discontent, and tragedies due to agrarian causes were frequent. Now it would seem as if all were changed, and a sound commercial instinct is being fostered in Irish farming. The development of co-operation has done much to bring about this issue. The smaller farmers find it to their interest to combine, so that the benefit of each may be available for all. Irish systems of land tenure are well adapted for the development of the co-operative system. Many fully equipped creameries are now in operation throughout Ireland, with the result that there has been a great improvement in the quality of Irish butter during the past four or five years. Prices have steadily risen, and now Irish creamery butter competes strenuously with best Danish in the British market. The politicians have, however, again set to work to disturb the settlements which were made for the buying out of landlords under the recent Land Act. Canadian stores are being made the occasion for a political campaign. Mr. Michael Davitt has taken up his parable against the British Act of 1896. He and the Freeman's Journal are arguing strongly the exclusion of Canadians. They say the over-sea cattle must come in. That being so, the sooner they come the better. If an influx of Canadian stores came to this country, it is pretty certain Irish stores will fall in price. It is, therefore, folly, they say, to buy out the landlords on a valuation based on continuance of the present policy of exclusion. This may be good Irish political tactics, but we question whether matters will fall out as its advocates desire they should. Many interests are to be considered, and, in spite of their noise, the agitators for the repeal of the Act of 1896 are a small minority. The public are unmoved, simply because they are getting as much cheap beef as ever, and until the great masses are touched there is small likelihood of any political change taking place in this country.

Clydesdales during 1904 enjoyed a turn of fortune's favors, and 1905 has opened. Two considerable shipments have already been made—one, by the Donaldson Line, to Canada; another to Australia. The Canadian shipment was made by the well-known firm of Graham Bros., Claremont, Ont. Mr. William Graham sailed a fortnight ago with eleven Clydesdale stallions, four Hackney stallions, and two Thoroughbreds. The last were for Mr. Robert Davies, Toronto, but the Clydesdales and Hackneys were for his own firm. They were carefully selected, big horses, and among them were several which will make their mark in the Canadian show-yards. The breeding is all right, and although the horses must have gone through a severe storm, we hope they may arrive safe and sound in Canada. They were bought from Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, Netherhall and Banks, Kirkcudbright. The same firm sold a shipment of seven stallions to Mr. J. E. Walter, Melbourne, Australia, which were shipped a week later. This is Mr. Walter's second shipment in two months. He knows what is wanted for the Australian market. Clydesdales for that

trade must be big and strong, with plenty of bone and hair.

We are to have a very important sale of Clydesdale mares and fillies here on Thursday, 9th of March. Mr. Thomas Smith, Blacon Point, Chester, is selling off thirty-one of his famous stud in order to get more room. He is only retaining eight of his old mares, among these being the renowned Royal Rose and Orphan Princess, Jean Macgregor, Fickle Fortune, Princess II., Matilda, the dam of Jean Macgregor, and a thick, solid, good mare named Red Rose. In the sale are included four daughters of Royal Rose, herself one of the most successful show and breeding mares ever known in this country. One of these daughters is the Cawdor Cup champion mare, Royal Ruby. Another Cawdor Cup champion is Cedric Princess, one of the finest mares ever seen in Scotland. It is long since anything to equal this lot of thirty-one Clydesdale females was offered at public sale. Canadian and American fanciers of the Clydesdale should make it a point to be represented at this sale. Next week we have the Glasgow Stallion Show, with the meetings of the Clydesdale Horse Society, and, generally, the annual Clydesdale carnival. This will form the text of next letter.

In milking circles, more attention is being paid to your ways of doing things than formerly, and, possibly, the time will come when an Ayrshire pedigree will run in terms of the milking and butter-fat records of the female ancestry. The Denmark Commission of last year has taught some useful lessons along this line, which seem likely to be laid to heart. SCOTLAND YET.



Sand Boy (Imp.) 386 (21832).

First-prize four-year-old Shire stallion, and champion stallion of the breed, Spring Stallion Show, Toronto, 1905. Owned by J. M. Gardhouse, Weston, Ont.

Keep Some Pine Tar.

Pine tar is regarded as valuable in the treatment of wounds, and an occasional feed of it helps to keep the animals' systems in a healthy condition. A southern farmer claims that if properly fed to hogs it will prevent hog cholera from getting into the herd. To insure its consumption by the hogs, he rolls or dips the ears of corn in it. This is done three times a week. He claims to have had not a case of cholera since he commenced the practice. We know a practical horseman who not only uses tar for horses' hoofs, but occasionally gives a dose of about a tablespoonful made into a ball to horses that are slightly out of condition.

Opinions.

Mr. I. B. Paye, Mariner's Rest, Foney Mills, N. S., says: I would not like to be without your valuable paper. I am a new hand at farming, but I gain a lot of valuable information.

Mrs. Geo. McCowan, York Co., Ont., says: We like the "Farmer's Advocate" very much, and we get so much good reading in it. It is a great farming paper. We have taken it ever since it was started.

FARM.

New Brunswick Farmers and Dairy-men's Association.

(Concluded from page 190.)

On Thursday evening, 26th, Dr. Inch, Supt. of Education for N. B., was introduced. He gave a most able and concise account of the schools of the Province. He regretted to say that in the June term no less than 407 districts had no schools open. In some places the salaries offered were too small to attract or secure teachers. He thought they should have a compulsory attendance law, and have it enforced. The consolidated school scheme had his hearty support; such schools ought to be introduced wherever practicable. It meant more children better taught. The Government was prepared to deal very liberally with those who decide on such a school. The consolidation school at Kingston, N. B., though only open a few months, has proved a very satisfactory affair. It was already a pronounced success.

Professor Brittain gave a demonstration lesson in nature study with six boys and six girls from one of the Fredericton schools. This proved a most interesting feature, and was much enjoyed and appreciated by the large audience present.

Mr. Westmore gave an account of the new consolidated school at Kingston, N. B. There were ten grades and five teachers. The plan was working splendidly, and all in his district were now in favor of the consolidated school. The attendance had already increased from 125 to 170, and the average percentage of those daily present had doubled.

Mr. Frank T. Shutt, M. A., of Ottawa, followed, with a brief address on "The value of nature study in the rural schools." Was education to enable us to make a living, to make us respectable members of society and good citizens, or to enable us to enjoy life in the very best way? He thought all three, when combined, were legitimate objects. Education should be a leading out and development of the latent power and ability of the child, and not merely a storing of the memory with facts and figures regarding the length of rivers, dates of wars, etc. Printed information was necessary and useful, and it was desirable to strengthen the memory, but we should train the child so that he could see clearly, so that he could make deductions from what he saw, and withal, that he could do things. Nature study does all this. He was of opinion that this new phase of educational advance would prove a great blessing to the children in the rural schools; not only

imparting to them information on the objects about them, and helping them to solve the problems of the farm, but also put them in love with their surroundings. It would, he was sure, do very much towards keeping the boys and girls on the farm.

Mr. Tompkins suggested that the semi-annual meeting of the association be held at Kingston next June, so that their members could see the consolidated school there. The idea was warmly received.

The report of the committee to consider the question of agricultural education in New Brunswick was brought in and ordered to be printed. It contained many valuable suggestions as to courses of study desirable to be taken up in the rural schools.

Friday, 27th: The report of the nominating committee was first presented, and was carried unanimously, as follows:

OFFICERS FOR 1905.

President, C. F. Alward, Havelock; Vice-President, J. F. Tweedale, Arthurette; Recording Secretary, N. S. Dow, Woodstock; Treasurer, Geo. F. Fisher, Chatham; Cor. Secretary, W. W. Hubbard, St. John.

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