

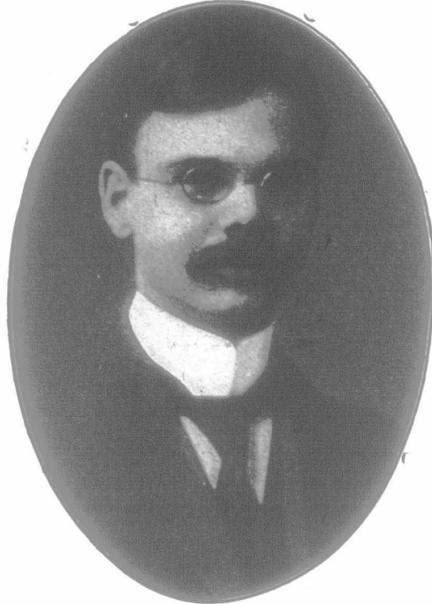
of potatoes and so economize in bread. But the Government has authorized brewers to increase their output of beer by 33 1/4 per cent., and they have given a like license of distillers in respect to spirits. Not only so, but while they have fixed a maximum price for cereals and recommended the addition of certain proportions of barley to wheat in the manufacture of bread, they actually allow the brewer to pay 5s. 3d. per quarter more for barley than they allow the miller to pay. The consequence is that not only is the miller unable to buy what he wants in quantity, but he only gets what the brewer leaves in respect to quality. It is hardly possible to conceive of any Trans-Atlantic Government sanctioning such a condition of things. Whether Lord Northcliffe had this in his mind when he penned the following words, we do not know, but certainly his words are applicable: "From countless conversations with leading Americans, I know that unless there is swift improvement in our methods here the United States will rightly take into its own hands the entire management of a great part of the war. It will not sacrifice United States blood and treasure to incompetent handling of affairs in Europe." In the opening of his letter Lord Northcliffe speaks of the "virile atmosphere of the United States and Canada", and I take it that the above sentence is as applicable to Canada as to the United States. Much of the big work on the Western front has been done by the Canadian troops, and on all hands we hear complaints of the temptations to which these splendid fellows are subjected when they arrive here. It will be well if our rulers would take heed. The Food Economy campaign is all necessary, as is also the Food Production campaign, but the official silence on economy in alcoholic drink is a baffling phenomenon to thinking men.

This is a somewhat lengthened, and perhaps slightly irrelevant, prelude to some reference to the matters which press most upon us in these days. We have had a strangely unequal harvest. In the Eastern and North-eastern sections of Scotland the harvest was almost a record one. In Aberdeenshire it has been described as "the harvest of a lifetime." In the West of Scotland it has been characterized by one who measures well his words as "the worst harvest he has experienced since 1879." That was the record bad year. There are farms in Renfrewshire on which many acres of grain are still to be seen in stook. A week ago we heard of a field of oats uncut in a good part of Ayrshire. In Lochaber there were scarcely two days of continuous dry weather from the middle of August to the middle of October. The bounteous potato crop is still to a large extent in the ground. Happily, weather conditions seem more settled this week-end than they have been for some time. The barometer stands high, and although the day is short a few weeks of dry weather would do much to save the potato and root crops of 1917 and pave the way for a greatly extended crop area in 1918.

A heroic effort is being made to increase the crop acreage next year by no less than 2,400,000 acres. This is a very large order even for the whole United Kingdom, but, along with Food Control and Food Economy, for the present there is an urgent call for self-contained Food Production. What prior to the war was generally dismissed as an idle dream, the production in the United Kingdom of enough food to maintain its own population, is the deliberate objective of the three departments charged with the development of agriculture in England, Scotland and Ireland. As an auxiliary to this end, plowing by motor tractor is being largely resorted to. A trial of such machines was organized by the Highland and Agricultural Society and extended over six days. I was precluded from seeing any of these trials but the unanimous verdict of those who did see them is that an immense improvement has been made in these internal combustion tractors since the last trials at Stirling, in 1915. Then they were a purely experimental proposition; now they have clearly come to stay. The opinion of practical farmers is that to be successful and to do good work the tractors must be driven by men who understand plowing—not simply by mechanics who understand machinery; and, secondly, that the plows must be adapted to the work as well as the tractors. One noted firm of plow-makers in Scotland, and another noted firm in England, have brought out plows during the past two years which meet these requirements. They turn over three furrows and four furrows at one time, and when the man who drives the tractor understands how to "set" his plow-irons and knows when they are right, a big stretch of work can be done on reasonably level land, even in the short days of winter. At the same time, so far as Scotland is concerned, the application of mechanical traction in plowing can never be universal. The land generally is too steep and rocky, and horse-plowing is in most cases a more economical proposition. The tractor plowing is in most cases rough work compared with the plowing which delighted the farmer of pre-war days, but these things we cannot think about now; quantity rather than quality is the demand of the hour.

Another phase of the food question is the scarcity of meat and feeding stuffs to produce meat. Lord Rhondda has devised a great scheme whereby he hopes to make an equitable distribution of the available meat supply in beef, mutton and pork, and at the same time an equitable distribution of the available feeding stuffs. This twofold scarcity is lined up with the question of transport, and in fact the question of enhanced food production finds its *motif* in the same quarter. The returns of vessels sunk by German U-boats show a gratifying decrease in the numbers reported during the past two weeks being the lowest since the unrestricted submarine warfare began. But those who have a right to speak on the subject warn us that shortage of

transport service is acute and would be acute even were the war to be over inside of months, and therefore we must ration not only the individual but also live stock. The plan adopted to make the meat supply go round is that of mapping out the country into subdivisions, each under the control of a Sub-Commissioner. All these Sub-Commissioners are linked up with a Chief Commissioner, whose headquarters are in Glasgow. It is the duty of these Sub-Commissioners to have a census of all available cattle, sheep and pigs in their respective areas; also to know what the requirements of each distributing centre are. And the Chief Commissioner is armed with power to requisition stock from the area which has more than its quota, to supply what is lacking in another area. Full supplies are not available anywhere, and if left to the law of supply



Prof. H. S. Arkell.

and demand the upshot would be that the area which could afford to pay most, e. g., Glasgow and the Clyde Valley, where money flows freely, would get all it wanted, and other areas would starve. The task set before the Commissioners is no easy one, yet with good-will on the part of all concerned it may be fulfilled, and the civilian will do his share in winning the war.

SCOTLAND YET.

### The Newly-Appointed Live Stock Commissioner.

H. S. Arkell, who since 1910 has been known to stockmen throughout Canada as the Assistant Live Stock Commissioner, was recently promoted to the head of the Branch in which he has been such a faithful servant. Since the death of John Bright those interested in matters pertaining to live stock have felt that the honor was due Prof. Arkell inasmuch as he has been a very important factor in the working of the Branch for the last seven years. His promotion has evoked approval from all quarters, for the appointment is considered a happy one for the industry for which he has labored so effectively. Mr. Arkell was born at Teeswater, Ont., in 1880. He graduated from Mc Master University in 1902 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, but true to the traditions of his family, widely known as stockmen, he turned his attention to agriculture, and graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1904 with the degree of B. S. A. After spending seven months as Instructor in Animal Husbandry

at the Ohio State College, he succeeded Prof. M. Cumming as lecturer in Animal Husbandry at the O. A. C. At this Institution he proved himself a good judge of stock and an able teacher. He distinguished himself by his assistance to Prof. Day in the training of the College stock-judging teams which won the Spoor trophy at the Chicago International Live Stock Exposition, and ranked highest in general average among the competing colleges in 1905 and again in 1906. His promotion to the head of the Animal Husbandry Department of Macdonald College, Que., followed on June 1, 1907, and there he continued until June, 1910. Throughout his college work Prof. Arkell demonstrated his ability and grasp of live-stock problems to a marked degree, and proved himself unusually successful as an instructor and in the training of students. In 1910, when Dr. Rutherford, the Veterinary Director-General and Live Stock Commissioner, required assistance in extending the usefulness of the Branch, he chose Prof. Arkell as Assistant Live Stock Commissioner, which position he has filled until recently with no small measure of success. His energetic manner and unusually liberal amount of executive ability, which have made him such a valued servant of the stockmen since 1910, render him peculiarly adapted to the new duties he has assumed. His acquaintance with agriculture arising out of his early training on the farm and extensive travel, has been added to by years of intimate association with the live-stock industry. In his labors with the Branch he has acquired a grasp of the situation and the difficulties consequent to the estranged conditions of the nations. Prof. Arkell's appointment as Live Stock Commissioner is a happy one for the industry, upon which so much depends at the present time, and which will require a guiding hand when the war is over.

### Sheep and Swine Carcass Awards.

Owing to lack of space the awards in classes for dressed carcasses of sheep and swine had to be omitted from the issue in which the report of the Winter Fair was given. The swine carcasses were sold at 22 cents per pound; lamb carcasses at 20 to 30 cents and yearlings at an average of 22 cents. The following are the awards in sheep and swine carcasses at Guelph Fair, together with awards in fleece wool.

**Dressed Carcasses.**—Awards.—Cotswold lamb: 1, Brien & Sons; 2, Mark & Son; 3, Dolson & Son; 4, Campbell. Lincoln lamb: 1 and 2, Brien & Sons; 3, Linden. Leicester lamb: 1 and 2, Whitelaw; 3 and 4, McTavish. Oxford lamb: 1 and 3, Armstrong; 2 and 4, Barbour & Son. Shropshire lamb: 1, Lloyd-Jones; 2, Armstrong; 3, Larkin; 4, Wright & Son. Southdown lamb: 1, Lloyd-Jones; 2 and 3, Larkin. Dorset Horned lamb: 1 and 2, Wilson; 3 and 4, Wright & Son. Hampshire or Suffolk lamb: 1, Wilson; 2 and 4, Henderson & Son; 3, Telfer Bros. Grade lamb, long-wooled: 1, Dolson & Sons; 2, Armstrong; 3 and 4, Brien & Sons. Grade lamb, short-wooled: 1, Wright & Son; 2, Blackburn & Son; 3, Wilson; 4, Johnson Bros. Shearling, long-wooled: 1, Linden; 2, Campbell; 3, Linden; 4, Mark & Son; 5, Whitelaw; 6, Brien & Sons. Shearling, short-wooled: 1 and 4, McEwen; 2, 3 and 7, Wright & Son; 5, Larkin; 6, Kelsey.

**Fleece Wool.**—Exhibitors.—G. H. Mark & Son, Little Brittain; A. Ayr, Bowmanville; J. D. Larkin, Queenston; W. M. Smith, Scotland; W. E. Wright & Son, Glanworth; A. A. Armstrong, Fergus; E. Barbour & Son, Hillsburg; A. & W. Whitelaw, Guelph; G. B. Armstrong, Teeswater.

**Awards.**—Fine medium: 1, Mark & Son; 2, Larkin; 3 and 4, Ayr; 5, Smith. Medium: 1, Smith; 2 and 3, Barbour & Son; 4 and 8, A. A. Armstrong; 5, Ayr; 6, Larkin; 7, Wright. Lustre: 1 and 2, Whitelaw; 3, Mark & Son; 4, G. B. Armstrong. Coarse: 1 and 2, Whitelaw; 3, G. B. Armstrong.

**Dressed Carcasses.**—Awards.—Bacon hogs: 1, Brethour & Nephews; 2 and 3, Boynton; 4, Stevenson; 5 and 6, Murdock; 7, Brownridge; 8, Templer; 9, Featherston; 10, Dolson & Son; 11 and 12, Douglas & Sons. Butcher hogs: 1 and 2, McEwen; 3, Wright & Son; 4, Robinson; 6, Brien & Sons; 6, Brownridge; 7, Boynton.



A Group of Winning Young Bulls at Penrith.

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