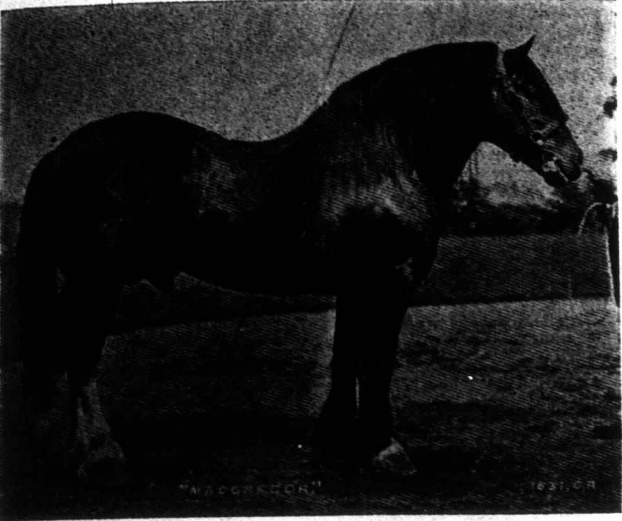


sources where this matter is attended to. In discussing this subject, Senator Ferguson said: "With regard to the action the provinces are taking, I may say that I am aware that in the Province of Ontario a rather efficient system of preparation, compilation and distribution of crop statistics is in operation. I read in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, the leading agricultural paper of Canada, in its March issue, the following:—

Methods of collecting information: About fifty years ago in the Province of Ontario the Board of Agriculture began to collect and publish through the press and otherwise such information, and the celebrated Royal Agricultural Commission of 1880 recommended the regular collection and publication of agricultural statistics. The Government wisely adopted the suggestion and Mr. Archibald Blue mapped out a plan and was made secretary of the "Bureau of Industries," which he con-



CLYDESDALE STALLION, "MACGREGOR" (1487).
Died July, 1899, in his twenty-second year.

ducted with great ability until called to take charge of another department, being succeeded by Mr. C. C. James, the present secretary and Provincial Deputy Minister of Agriculture, whose great executive abilities have further improved the service. We find that: 1. Information is collected on crop, stock and food conditions from regular correspondents three times every year—1st of May, August, and November. Occasionally a fourth request is made, if special weather conditions, such as frost, too much rain, drought, etc., demand it. 2. These are got from a list of permanent correspondents numbering 800 to 1,000, the list constantly being revised, negligents being dropped, and newly-found competent ones being added. 3. The statistics are obtained by sending out blank cards or schedules to every farmer whose name and address is secured through the school teachers. Returns are received from 6,000 to 15,000 persons. 4. Correspondents are pretty evenly distributed over the Province, from 25 to 30 in each county. 5. To regular correspondents are sent all published reports and special pamphlets, no money is paid. 6. In June of each year a large card is sent to every farmer in the Province, returnable first week in July, for details as to acreage of farm crops, timber, etc.; orchard, stock, implements and their value.

Senator Allan and Senator Mills also bore testimony to the excellence of the Ontario system of collecting agricultural statistics, and conceded the importance of this work from a national point of view.

The Call for Weightier Clydesdales.

A noteworthy contribution in this issue is the letter of our Scottish correspondent in the Stock Department, dealing with the question of size or substance in Clydesdale horses. This important matter was brought to the front in our July 15th issue by the letter of Mr. David Burns, who suggested for discussion by our readers the Shire cross. Mr. Wm. Hendrie, Jr., of Hamilton, Ont., and others have since discussed the subject in vigorous fashion, and now we have the communication of "Scotland Yet," who speaks as a man having authority. As might be supposed, he gives no countenance whatever to the admixture of any "alloy," but intimates that anything needed can be attained within the established Scottish breed of draft horses, well conserved by the authentic stud books. He touches the delicate question of the fashionable blood lines, because it has been hinted that a too rigid adherence to these may be the real kernel of the problem. His letter will be read with widespread interest among horsemen. Horse-breeding has wonderfully revived, and now is the time to preserve it upon safe and profitable lines. We cannot have too much light upon the subject.

Appreciated Abroad.

Under the heading, "Creamery Butter," we note the following in the Elgin (Ill.) Dairy Report: "We find in our esteemed contemporary, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, an article on creamery butter by Mr. F. J. Sleightholm, of Ontario. We reproduce it in part, as it contains so much of good, sound, practical, everyday common sense as applied to the problems that are confronting our manufacturers of creamery butter in this country as well. It shows what has been done in Canada to produce the best results."

STOCK.

Our Scottish Letter.

DEATH OF MACGREGOR.

July 31st witnessed the death of the best-known Clydesdale stallion of the past ten years—Mr. Andrew Montgomery's "Macgregor" 1487. He died at Montrave, where he has been located for two seasons as stud horse with Sir John Gilmour, on Monday morning, of acute inflammation. He was a wonderful old horse, having during his long life of 21 years 3 months never had a "tout," and his last illness was his first. Macgregor was bred by Mr. Robert Craig, when tenant of Flashwood, in Dalry parish, Ayrshire, and was purchased from him when a yearling, by Mr. Andrew Montgomery, for £65. He was first at Dalry in that year, and at Kilmarnock a few weeks later he was placed second, for the first and only time in his long life, to Cete-way 1409. Thereafter he was not shown until Dalbeattie Show, in October of the same year, when he was again first, and in the following year he was unbeaten, although exhibited at all the leading shows, including the Royal and the Highland. In 1881 he was first at Glasgow, and at the Royal, Derby, and in 1882 he was first at the H. & A. S. Show at Glasgow. Thereafter he competed only as sire of groups of five yearlings or two-year-olds, and for more than a dozen years was invincible in this capacity, being only once placed second, viz., at Glasgow, in 1885. In fact, until the stock of Baron's Pride 9122, most of them out of Macgregor mares, appeared on the scene, the stock after Macgregor in such competitions was practically invincible.

Possibly no stallion furnished a greater number of horses to the American and Canadian markets, and his sons, like himself, are good-tempered, sound, healthy animals, while his daughters are proving to be amongst the best breeding mares in the country. Next to his singular healthfulness, Macgregor's great characteristic was his good temper. We have seen him, when twelve years old, led round the courtyard, at Threave Mains, by the mane, and he was to the last as tractable and placid in temper as a lamb. Too much stress cannot be laid on this point, and too little importance is attached by some men to sound constitution and good temper in a stallion. Generally the produce of Macgregor were distinguished by the same characteristics as their sire. We have never heard of an ill-tempered Macgregor horse or mare, and during the past twenty years we only once heard of an unsound colt by him. He was individually a typical Clydesdale—sound in the feet, clean and free from all kinds of disease or greasiness in the limbs, with a magnificent crest and splendid shoulders, rising nobly at the withers. His back was straight and his ribs well sprung and deep, and he had great leverage behind. He was, like his sire, Darnley, a magnificent walker, and could keep the best man living going for all he was worth, at a swinging walking pace. Adverse criticism confined itself to these points in Macgregor: His head was rather small and ponylike—in this he resembled Darnley; his hocks were rather much set, and, in consequence, his hind pasterns were possibly not as long and springy as Clydesdale fancy demands. This peculiar formation of hind leg was possibly more apparent in some of his produce than in himself, but it is generally recognized as the "Macgregor hind leg." It in no way hindered the usefulness of his stock, commercially or in everyday work; on the contrary, experts frankly avowed their preference for a hind leg formed in the fashion indicated; it gives a horse great leverage, especially in backing, and the Scottish two-wheeled cart, balanced on the horse's back, calls for the exercise of strength when being pressed in that direction. Macgregor was a right good Clydesdale horse, and his kind are "too thin sown."

SIZE AND SUBSTANCE IN CLYDESDALES.

Mr. David Burns' letter, in your issue of 15th July, suggests an important question, and one in which the fame of Macgregor is more or less involved. The chief criticism passed by the average buyer of cart horses on Macgregor's stock, is that the stallions are somewhat undersized. This is by no means a criticism of universal application. For example, the biggest two-year-old colt of this season—Drumflower—which won at the H. & A. S., at Edinburgh, is a son of the old horse, and there have been many other horses after him in which weight and substance were conspicuous. Still, there were amongst his colts undoubtedly a considerable number of neat, compact, short-legged, round-ribbed animals, with heads rather ponylike, and not too indicative of growth. This is a criticism which also applied to the produce of this famous sire, Darnley, and the greatest admirers of both will not deny that to some extent it is a valid criticism.

Mr. Burns' explanation of the alleged increasing fineness and lack of size, as well as slowness of growth in Clydesdales, is hardly likely to be accepted by Clydesdale breeders, and his suggested remedy—a Shire cross—would, so far as past experience has gone, be of no use at all. He attributes this increasing fineness to inbreeding, but draws an important distinction between "closely related" and "inbred." Many Clydesdale stallions are undoubtedly closely related. For example, all the Prince of

Wales-Darnley crosses may be so criticised, and possibly the Baron's Pride-Macgregor crosses are open to the same criticism. But what does it amount to? The dams of Prince of Wales and Darnley were half-sisters (got by the same sire, Samson 741). What relationship would Mr. Burns say subsisted between Prince of Wales and a daughter of Darnley? Then take the other very popular cross at the present time. Baron's Pride was by Sir Everard, he by Top Gallant, and he by Darnley. Baron Pride's dam was by Springhill Darnley, and he by Darnley 222. What relationship subsisted between the sire and dam of Baron's Pride? Obviously they were related—it may be closely—but what would the connection be called in the human family? If Baron's Pride be mated with a daughter of Macgregor, as has often been done, what relationship subsists between the two, seeing that Macgregor is also a son of Darnley? The late Mr. Drew experimented with the cross suggested by Mr. Burns as probably no man before or after him ever did. He selected Shire mares purposely to mate them with Prince of Wales 673, and he achieved many notable results. But he died in 1884, and no one continued his work. We are, therefore, able in some measure to form a judgment on the success of the cross in subsequent generations, so far as securing increase of weight and size is concerned. The most strenuous supporters of the Merryton colt will not affirm that Mr. Drew did not breed quite as heavy, if not heavier, horses from Prince of Wales and Clydesdale mares than he ever bred from Shire mares. Whatever advantage Mr. Drew's work has been to horse-breeding, there is nothing to show that it has resulted in the addition of any weight or substance to the Scottish breed.

But Mr. Burns may argue that he is not suggesting Mr. Drew's cross, but a cross the other way—that is, the use of the Shire stallion on Clydesdale mares. That, also, is not an untried cross in Scotland. Hendrie's Farmer's Glory and Galbraith's Tintock (your Canadian "Conqueror," imported by Simon Beattie) had a fair trial on Clydesdale mares—the former in Ayrshire and the latter in Stirlingshire; and although their vogue was before my day, I am disposed to think that Mr. Burns would find some basis for his theory in their history. When mated with the smaller, undersized farmers' mares, these horses undoubtedly left very notable stock, but the full benefit of their services has been secured to the Clydesdale breed. Their fame rests on their female progeny, and, without exception, all of them that were available were taken into the earlier issues of the Clydesdale Stud Book. If in spite of this the breed shows the characteristics alleged by Mr. Burns, there is small encouragement, even from his own standpoint, to resort to further experiments of that kind.

The truth is, what Mr. Burns complains of is not a matter of breeding at all, but of showyard fancy. There are plenty, and have always been plenty, of big, handsome, powerful mares in the Clydesdale breed; but the trend of public sentiment has for years been in favor of the very thing which Mr. Burns condemns as a defect—slow maturing. How that can be a defect in a bullock is intelligible, but it passes my comprehension to see how a big, rapidly-grown, soft-boned animal can for one moment compare for draft purposes with a hard-boned, wiry, slowly-maturing, short-legged horse.



HARD LINES.

Imported Thoroughbred stallion, exhibited by R. I. M. Power, Carberry, Manitoba, at the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition, 1899.

The big, overgrown boy, who is a man at seventeen, is by no means, as a rule, the healthiest and most durable subject. You want draft horses to wear, and if that is admitted, the less the breeder has to do with a Shire the better. Letters like Mr. Burns' serve a useful purpose. There is a tendency in all kinds of breeding to separate the fancy from the utilitarian, and writers who advance views like those of Mr. Burns render admirable service by emphasizing the utilitarian side of things. Clydesdale breeders can never afford to forget that they are breeding cart horses, not van or express horses with hair on their legs. If they do this, they have plenty material in their own breed to enable them to produce horses of the right size and weight, and of the best wearing material.

"SCOTLAND YET."