

The increasing tendency of our farmers to market their stock *early*, especially in hard times, has thrown a great many four-year-old horses on the market, many of them being passed off as a year older than they are, and all users of horses know by experience that at this age they are in no condition for hard work, either on farm or in the city.

In a country where sport has such a hold upon the people as it has always had in England, with the facilities for fox-hunting unequalled, it is not surprising that the demand and the price obtainable for good hunting horses should encourage farmers to use Thoroughbred sires freely. In recent years, however, Canadian-bred hunters have entered the field, and in many cases are able to hold their own alongside the best English or Irish productions, and there seems no reason why the export trade in hunters should not greatly increase in the near future. The great essential to the successful breeding of weight-carrying hunters is the use of only the most superior Thoroughbred sires, whose strength, stamina, and absolute soundness are beyond dispute. Given a supply of half and three-quarters bred mares of substance, such as I think there are in many parts of Canada, and if mated with large, sound Thoroughbred sires, I cannot see why the produce should not equal the British-bred hunter in every respect, and he can certainly be raised cheaper. The breeder of hunters must, above all things, avoid "weediness" and unsoundness in every form, however, and no greater mistake can be made than to sacrifice soundness, strength or stamina for excessive speed, or any or all of the other excellencies combined. A hunting horse without wind or without the necessary strength to carry his rider day after day, if necessary, is scarcely worthy of the name; and if he belongs to the "weedy" order, is really of little use for any purpose whatever. On the other hand,

if he happens to be somewhat short of quality or scarcely equal to his jumps, he will still fit in as a cavalry remount, at £40 or thereabout; while if he turns out a successful hunter, four or five times this price may eventually be got for him. True, there are many misfits, but by keeping up the weight those misfits are quite serviceable at remunerative if not extravagant figures. Although Ireland has always been in the forefront in hunter breeding, it is generally admitted that the Irish horses are by no means equal to what they were 30 years ago, and one noticeable feature at all the principal English and Irish shows is the enormous proportion of light or middle weight hunters to heavy weight-carriers—12 to 13 stone hunters being in far greater numbers and of less value than 15-stone horses. For this reason, if for no other, it is highly essential that size and strength be kept prominently in view by the Canadian hunter breeder. That both the demand from England and the price for the first-class finished article will keep up for many years to come there is no reasonable doubt whatever.

To the Canadian or American farmer who wishes to raise horses suitable for the foreign market, the same advice is applicable as for the home market. Try to raise them just as good as you possibly can; use the best sires you can find, almost regardless of service fee; feed your colts generously, but give plenty of exercise; handle and break them carefully but thoroughly; if for draft purposes, do not overlook the necessity of having them heavy; and for any purpose, try to raise only such as are absolutely sound in wind and limb.

ALEX. GALBRAITH.

#### Tar-Branding of Sheep.

The journal of the British Board of Agriculture states that the Board have received communications from the Halifax and Huddersfield Chambers of Commerce intimating that local representations have been made by wool spinners and manufacturers as to the inconveniences resulting from the branding of sheep with tar and similar substances. It is represented that a large quantity of wool used in the manufacture of carpets and the like does not undergo the process of sorting, and thus it frequently happens that in spite of endeavors to take out tar-marked wool the tar marks pass through the various stages into the finished goods, thereby causing considerable damage and loss. This would not be serious were it not for the fact that tar is not dissolved in the ordinary processes of wool-washing. This fact should lead wool growers to adopt some other means of marking their flocks, because they are, after all, the ones who pay for the cleaning, by receiving a lower price for their clip because of the objectionable brand.

#### Our Scottish Letter.

It occurs to me that rather a long interval has elapsed since I last wrote, and possibly some may be asking whether "Scotland Yet" has given up. Not so, however, and in the present writing we hope to make amends and perhaps thereby secure forgiveness. Much has happened during the past four weeks, and alike in North and South farmers are rejoicing in abundance of rain.

**Crop Prospects.**—The month of May was singularly dry and summerlike. The coast season, as we call it, opened early, and those who depend on city visitors and excursionists reaped an early harvest. The dry weather broke up about the beginning of June and for about ten days we had a considerable downpour of rain. This came in fine time for Scottish farming, but too late to adjust the balance for farmers in the South of England, whose hay crop in too many places is a failure. This is one of the penalties attaching to an early district. If your spring is dry, followed by a dry May, it is inevitable that the hay crop will be a failure. In Scotland growth is not so rapid, and hence a wet May or early June does much to insure an excellent crop of hay. If the Canadians do not send in too much hay this season, those who have a crop should be making fair prices, as the amount of old hay in the country is limited, if not, for all practical purposes, non-existent. Oats are in the ear in the early parts of Ayrshire during this week (June 13th) and there is reason to expect an early harvest and scarcity of straw. Potatoes are a splendid crop everywhere, but alas for prices! they are utterly demoralized. Last year one night's frost in May saved the capital of the growers in Fife and the East generally, by creating a panic amongst early growers, and sending up the price of old potatoes at one bound from 35s. to £5 per ton. No such kind Provi-

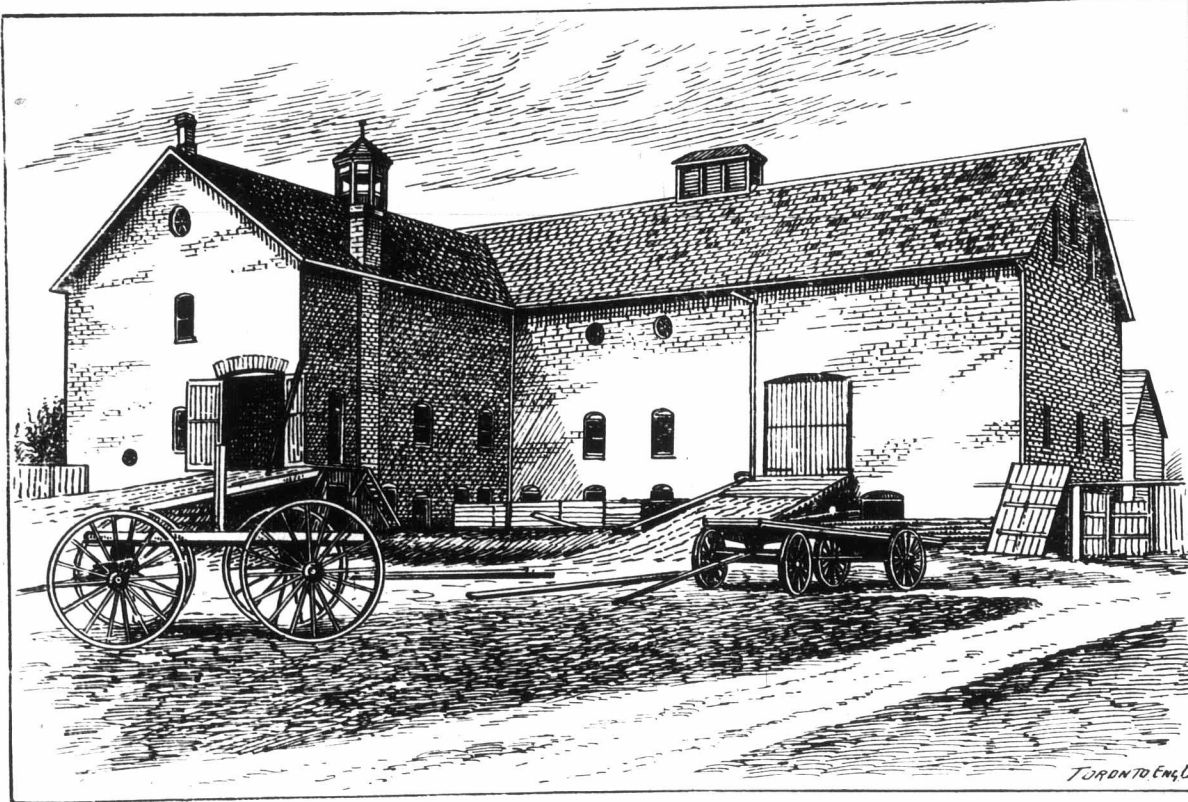
could try their strength. This should be followed by not more than three or four open district shows, at which, without restriction of area, the best animals could be seen. As it is, we have a superfluity of open competitions held at small country towns, which serve no good purpose at all; they are attended by certain show animals with which all are familiar, and rarely does a new face appear through them. Gatherings of this kind are chiefly sustained by the tradesmen in the country towns where they are held. They bring grist to their mills, and this is about the best that can be said in their favor.

**Show Yard Events.**—The principal events of the month, so far, have taken place at Paisley, where an excellent show for the County of Renfrew is held; at Campbelltown, where one of the best district shows open to Kintyre is seen, and at Edinburgh, where there is always a first-rate display of horses and sheep from all parts of the country, a splendid competition in buttermaking and dairying, but not many cattle are to be seen. The Renfrewshire exhibition has a character of its own. It is strong in Clydesdales, Ayrshires, and dairy produce. There are always many excellent light horses to be seen at it and a limited turnout of really first-class Border Leicester and Blackface sheep. The Clydesdale championship went this year to Mr. William Taylor, Park Mains, Renfrew, for his grand mare, Lucy Lockett, a daughter of that great horse, Sir Everard 5353. Mr. David Riddell, Blackhall, Paisley, and Mr. Walter S. Park, Hatton, Bishopton, were also extensive exhibitors. Mr. William Clark, Netherlea, Cathcart, won the male championship with his magnificent gelding, The Boss, got by Lyon of Purdomstown, a son of Macgregor, and bred by Mr. John M. Hannah, Girvan Mains. Those who prate about Clydesdales deteriorating should see this horse.

He will take a great deal of beating, and we never saw a horse one-third his match in any show yard where Shires were entered. Mr. John Pollock, Spring-side, Lochwinnoch, is one of the most successful breeders of Border Leicester sheep in the West of Scotland. He understands the breed well and always exhibits first-rate animals when the shows are around.

At the Campbelltown show Clydesdales were much in evidence, as is their wont; and Blackface sheep were also a fine display. Mr. William Maxwell, Baraskomel, secured champion honors for both classes of stock. His mare, Mona, by Sir Everard, swept the boards in her section, and his Blackface ram did the same amongst the sheep. At Edinburgh both championships went to the produce of Macgregor 1487; his unbeaten daughter, Royal Rose, now owned by Mr. Thomas Smith, Blacon Point, Chester, carried off the female trophy; and his son, the McRaith, a yearling colt, beat all the males, including Mr. Clark's champion gelding, The Boss. This has been a great year for the produce of Macgregor 1487, and his junior colleague, Baron's Pride 9122, is running him very close. He has won the family group prize at Kilmarnock and Edinburgh this season, and means further conquest. The produce of Mr. Renwick's noted champion horse, Prince Alexander 8800, are also doing well, winning a large share of the premiums at the principal shows. All the breeds of sheep were strongly in evidence at the Metropolitan show. Border Leicesters are attracting much attention, and a splendid return is being got by those engaged in breeding them. They undoubtedly occupy in the sheep world the same place as is filled by the Shorthorn in the cattle world. They are the best crossing sheep we have in this country, and are only excelled by the Shropshire in some cases. For Blackface or Cheviot ewes no cross produces more valuable commercial lamb and mutton than the Border Leicester. Amongst the most successful breeders of these beautiful sheep are several of the nobility. Lord Polworth stands easily first in this respect, but the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earl of Dalhousie, the Earl of Roseberry, and Mr. A. J. Balfour, of Whittinghame, M. P., have also achieved distinction. Unfortunately, from deaths and other causes several of the best flocks of Border Leicesters in the country have recently been dispersed, and there are now very few in Berwickshire, which used to be the headquarters of the breed. It is like the Shorthorn in being cosmopolitan, and one of the leading breeders is Mr. W. S. Ferguson, Pictontown, Perth. He has written an admirable article on the origin and history of the breed, which finds a place in the recent issue of the "Transactions" of the Highland and Agricultural Society. The next big thing we have here is the Royal show, which opens in a week hence at Leicester.

"SCOTLAND YET."



MR. E. D. TILLSON'S BARN.

dence has intervened this year. We have had no May frosts; the crop of 1895 was very prolific, and disease made little progress; there was no foreign market, and all through the winter and spring merchants were quite regardless about purchasing. The lifting of the new potato crop began in Ayrshire a week ago, and now all hands are busily engaged in getting them off to market. As an indication of the altered circumstances of the two seasons, a plot on the farm of Dowhill, Girvan, which in 1895 was sold by public auction at £67 per acre, is this year sold at £25 per acre, and if anything the potatoes are better this season than they were last. These notes will convey some idea of the conditions of affairs agriculturally in this country.

**Cattle Trade.**—There is a slight improvement in the cattle. Fat cattle are selling a little better than they did in the earlier months of the year, but stores are still out of all proportion dear. In the autumn, farmers were buying them to eat up the heaps; now they are buying them to keep down the grass, but where the profit comes in does not appear.

**Too Many Shows.**—June is always a busy month with the show-going farmer. It is a simple matter of fact that one residing in the West or East of Scotland could during this month attend a cattle show every day throughout its course, except the first and second days in each week. Of course, Scotchmen do not hold shows on the Sabbath, and they are almost equally unknown on the Monday. We have, undoubtedly, too many shows. If the number were reduced by nearly one-half, no interest would suffer. An ideal show system would be one in which there was a show for every parish, or, if preferred, combination of two or three parishes. This would stimulate local enterprise. Then there ought to be a show in every county, at which the best from every parish within the county

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