

MARCH 31, 1904

THE FARMERS ADVOCATE.

449

STOCK.

Money-making Meat-shops.

The improved weather conditions which this month has brought along have had a beneficial effect, not only in the world of agriculture, but in all kinds of business. It is earnestly to be hoped that the present dry spell may continue, so that farmers may overtake the heavy arrears of their work. During the three months which ended with February, there has been a more than usually ample supply of home-fed beef in the general markets of the country. Whatever else may be said of the state of our trade in live stock, there is every reason to congratulate ourselves on the health of our cattle, which, for a long time past, have appeared in full numbers and in excellent condition, whether as finished beef or as growing stores.

Judging from the purchases made at the recent Perth and Birmingham pedigree bull sales on behalf of Argentine breeders, it would appear that the South American Republic is making strenuous efforts to capture our markets for their beef, and it must be admitted they are going about it in the right way. Mr. F. Miller, whose purchases are more particularly in my mind, is one of the principal buyers of pure-bred stock for export, and he and his principals are to be congratulated on his selections. At Birmingham, Mr. Miller, after keen competition between English, American and German buyers, secured Viscount Baring's bull calf Loyal Victor, for \$3,000.00. This magnificent animal is not yet twelve months old, and his price has not been reached at these sales for many years.

Following on the Shire Horse Show mentioned in my last letter, we have had at the Royal Agricultural Hall the shows and sales of the Hackney and Carriage horses, as well as the Thoroughbred hunter and polo and riding pony. At the former, the general quality cannot be written as above the average, but as regards both the breeding and harness classes, they may be called an average. Included in the general company were a large number of foreigners, many of whom appeared to be from France, which circumstance favors the impression that the Hackney is finding its level, and that a high one, in that country for improving the action of the ordinary harness horses which are bred across the Channel.

In this week's shows, the competition for the twenty-eight King's premiums of £150 each, offered by the Royal Commission on Horse-breeding, was less keen than usual. The stallions catalogued show a decline from the number displayed last year, when there was also a noticeable diminution.

The attendances at all these spring horse shows have been very satisfactory. The fact that members of the Royal family, including the King and Queen, have paid them visits no doubt helped in a great measure to swell the crowds, but the general excellence of the exhibits was the great attraction.

In Smithfield market, beef of all descriptions has been very slow of sale, the quantity put on the market being much in excess of the requirements of the trade. This, too, in spite of the fact that the consumers have lately shown a preference for beef over mutton, and prices have dropped considerably this week. The decline in value may be roughly put at a half cent per pound on hind quarters, and fully one and one-half cents on fore quarters. The best quality mutton is very dear in our markets at present, and those in the know do not look forward to any reduction for a long time to come. Of course, plain frozen mutton does not compete with the home or town killed mutton.

One of the surprises of the week was the announcement of a five-per-cent. dividend by Eastman's Limited. It is just thirteen years since the directors had such a satisfactory report to present. During the year, the company made a net profit of £91,665. It may interest your readers to learn that Eastman's Limited have no less than 982 retail butchers' shops going in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

At Mark Lane, yesterday, there was a very thin attendance of wheat buyers. English wheat was steady, but trade was very quiet. Foreign wheat was steadily held at late prices, but the demand was limited; No. 3 northern, Manitoba, was quoted at 35s. 6d. (\$8.52). For flour, sellers were asking late prices, but buyers did not respond.

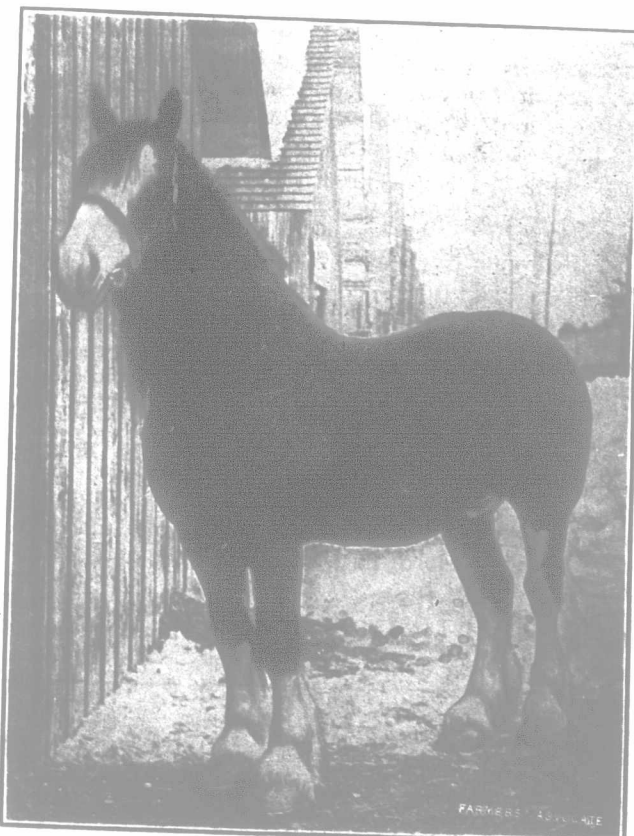
At Deptford cattle market, on Monday, there were on offer 880 United States cattle, which were quoted at 11½c. to 12c. On the same market, 195 Canadian beasts made 10½c. to 11½c. in a slow trade. On Wednesday, 809 States cattle met a very slow demand, and the best bunches only made 11½c. to 11½c., and a clearance was not effected.

The market for Canadian cheese is in much the same position as it was last week, rather quiet but firm, and the transactions reported have been at about the same rates, say 10½c. for primest colored and white, and 10½c. for fancy lots. There is a good enquiry for cheese about one-half cent under the above prices, and, provided there was sufficient assortment on show on such terms, a considerable clearance would soon be made. The stock on hand at the Commercial Rd. station has been worked down to 88,000 boxes, compared with 54,000 boxes this time last year.

The change for the better in the weather, combined with superabundant supplies, has had the effect of bringing down prices on the butter market, especially for the finer qualities, which have lately ruled rather dear.

Trade in the bacon department has been of dragging character. The smallness of the purchases made by dealers has led to an accumulation of both green and smoked meats. The shortage of Canadian bacon has not been felt to any extent, as shippers and dealers in seeking to make extra profit by it, directed the attention of buyers to other brands.

London, Eng., March 13th, 1904.



Michaboe.

Imported Clydesdale stallion. The property of Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont. Sire Hiawatha. (See Gossip.)

Cattle Warbles.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

The article in the "Advocate" of March 17th, about warbles in cattle, gives what I have been told was their correct life history. The last few years I have been hunting them out of our cattle, and finding them in places where it would appear almost impossible for the larvæ to get from the inside. I have squeezed them out over the flat bone in the shoulder right back to the root of the tail, and I have been wondering whether the egg



Prince of Scotlandwell.

Four-year-old Clydesdale stallion. Sired by Prince of Johnstone. Imported and owned by Smith & Richardson, Columbus, Ont. (See Gossip.)

was taken and hatched in the inside of the cattle. I have seen what we call the ox fly (which I understand lays the eggs from which warbles hatch) buried in the hair along the cattle's backs where we find warbles, and it would appear to the casual observer that the fly could bite through the skin and deposit the egg where we find the warble. Now, Mr. Editor, if you think the mat-

ter worthy of further research, kindly publish results in the "Farmer's Advocate."

Simcoe Co., Ont.

J. T. KITSON.

[Note.—We have the evidence of the most thorough investigators, that the larvæ of the ox warble hatches in the digestive tract and bores its way to the backs of the animals, where it feeds and grows, finally escaping during the warm days of spring, as described in the article referred to. Flies are so similar in appearance, yet so dissimilar in habit and in their larval stage, that one is liable to be mistaken as to the exact identity of the ox warble.]

Theory and Treatment of Milk Fever.

Mr. A. S. Wheeler, V.M.D., in charge of the Biltmore Farms herd of Jerseys in North Carolina, writes us:

In regard to the treatment of milk fever, and the cause of same, it might not be out of place to mention that iodide of potash, sterile water, salt water, and the injection of air and oxygen, as far as I can learn, are as efficacious the one as the others. Might not this lead us to believe that the etiological factor of the disease was due to an emptiness of the blood vessels of the udder, into which there was a sudden determination of the blood, and hence an anæmia of the brain, producing the collapse and paralysis which present themselves in what is known as parturient paresis; in other words, does it not indicate that there is a sudden disturbance of the blood circulation, induced by the process of calving and shrinkage of the blood vessels in the pelvic portion of the maternal organs, and the rush of blood to the udder, thereby causing a deficiency of blood in the brain? It does seem to me, although I am not positive on this point, that a large percentage of cases in our herd have been cows that are heavy milkers, and in which cows the udder has not been fully distended as it should be for the size of the udder. It seems to me that bacteria do not play any part in the causation of this disease, unless we might consider that the pressure might retard the growth of the bacteria, which does not recommend itself to me as a tenable theory. We are using a bicycle pump very successfully; in fact, all that seems necessary to do in these cases is to get the udder as tight as possible, and is it not probable that the distention of the udder by any one of the above methods simply ligates the blood vessels of the udders, thereby tending to correct the disturbance of the blood circulation and restore the animal to health?

We introduced the system of not milking cows out for a few days after calving, on November 1st, 1902, and since that time up to March 1st, or during a period of fifteen months, we have had 86 cows to drop their calves that were susceptible to milk fever, or in other words that had three or more calves. During that time we have had five cases of milk fever, all of which recovered. From October, 1900, to November, 1902, we had 17 cases of milk fever; that is during a period of 25 months. It is not possible without considerable trouble to furnish the number of cows that calved during that period that were susceptible to milk fever, but there was probably not as large a number as for the preceding period. This, I think, is a very favorable showing, and we feel very much encouraged, and intend continuing it as a result of our experience. One of the cases of milk fever that occurred, in fact the last one, started before the calf arrived; of the other four cases, one came in three days over nine months, and did not make her usual bag; another came in twelve days over nine months, and she did not make a tight bag; the third came in a week ahead of nine months, and the fourth came one day less than nine months. These cases, of course, are only a few, and only of a sufficient number to suggest careful watching in future.

Biltmore Farms, N. C.

When the time for spring seeding arrives will it find you ready to go ahead without interruption?