

killed meat, 112,733 tons; town killed, 67,667; foreign meat and produce, 33,912; American fresh meat, 62,107 tons; and Australian and New Zealand fresh meat, 66,719 tons. Compared with the previous year, there had been an increase of foreign meat of 3,862 tons, or 11 per cent., while the supply from the United Kingdom was less by 5,333 tons, or two per cent., and that from America had fallen off to the extent of 9,531 tons, or 13.3 per cent. Those deficiencies had been amply covered by a large increase in the supply of Australian and New Zealand killed meat, of 16,811 tons, or 33 per cent. The supplies from America commenced in 1876, with 5,513 tons, and from Australia in 1881, with 565 tons. From these times the deliveries have enormously increased year by year, reaching the highest totals of 71,638 tons from America in 1891, and 66,719 tons from Australia last year.

Our Scottish Letter.

Legislation.—Parliament is very busy endeavoring to do something for agriculture, and a strenuous effort is being made to push through its stages a bill to alter the incidence of local rating on agricultural subjects. It is hardly possible, nor would it be very profitable, to seek to make plain to Canadian readers what is involved in the proposals now before the Legislature. The method of imposing assessments differs greatly even in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and it is scarcely possible to appreciate all the distinctions without going exhaustively into the whole history of agriculture and land owning. In a new country many of these troubles can be avoided. You start with a clean sheet and can map out in advance the course which you design to follow. The usages of an old country are the product of customs and laws of the past, and vested interests have in many things been constituted by old-established customs and laws. Hence the great complexity of our method of assessing for local purposes and the difficulty of mastering the numerous details involved. The misfortune of the present great debate is that there is a strong disposition in connection with it to pit the urban against the rural ratepayer, and this does not tend to sweeten the wheels of social and political life. The same principles come into operation when the Diseases of Animals Bill is being discussed. Every effort is put forth to make it appear that the urban ratepayer is to be punished in order to better the lot of the agriculturist. This, however, in view of the abnormally low price of agricultural products of all kinds—beef as well as grain—is an argument which carries no weight at all with thinking men. Whatever the effect of the Bill may be, past experience does not suggest that it will raise the price of beef to the consumer. As matters are at present the butcher could very well afford to give the consumer an increased advantage and still be able to clear paying profit.

Clydesdale and Shire.—Numerous sales have been held since last writing of nearly every variety of stock. The Clydesdale sales resulted in the production of an average of about £67 for considerably over 100 head of pedigreed stock of all ages. The Keir stud was dispersed in presence of a very large company, and prices were about as good as could have been expected. The best sale of the series was that from the Edengrove stud, when 450 gs. or £472 10s. was paid for the Macgregor mare, Royal Rose, and generally very high prices were got for stock after this renowned sire; £113 was the average price for all that was sold. The old contention regarding the relative merits of Clydesdales and Shires has again been renewed. Mr. James Nicol Fleming, who bred Prince of Wales 673 thirty years ago, keeps hammering away at the unfortunate animals which happen to be registered in the Clydesdale Stud Book, and if a good horse appears on the scene which does not register Mr. Fleming at once writes elaborate letters to some papers to show that all the good things of which the horse may be possessed have sprung from some comparatively remote Shire. His greatest at present is the Glasgow premium horse, Prince of Clay, a very good horse, which, unfortunately, will not register. His granddam was the old Merryton mare, Flora, by Lincolnshire Lad, reputed to be a Shire mare, but by no means like the average of such animals. Prince of Clay is, however, strongly inbred to Darnley—his sire's dam and his own dam being both got by that horse. Clearly, then, it is not a wild supposition that the horse owes not a little of his merits to this double cross. Debates after all of this kind do very little good. That a right Clydesdale is a very different animal from a right Shire is a proposition which will at once command assent from any visitor to the great London and Glasgow spring shows; while on the other hand there is no doubt Shires can be found which are very like Clydesdales, and a few Clydesdales can be found which have some points of the Shire. The man who fancies a genuine Clydesdale is not the man who will fancy a genuine Shire, and vice versa. It is a pity Mr. Fleming cannot find any better occupation than running down the native draft horse breed of Scotland.

Ayrshire Cattle have been selling well of late. A strong effort is being made by several breeders, and notably by Mr. Alexander Cross, of Knockdon, to popularize the judging of dairy cattle by results in milk yield and butter-fat, and at Ayr show several bull stirks were sold by Mr. Cross whose pedigrees were guaranteed in this way. The records of their dams and grandams as milkers, alike for quantity and quality, were quoted and the stirks were also tested with tuberculin and a warrant given that they had not reacted. The result was

that six of them were sold at an average price of £45 1s. 6d. each, while four were purchased by a Swedish gentleman at 78 gs., 42 gs., 37 gs., and 31 gs. respectively. At the Lanark Ayrshire bull sale, on Wednesday, high prices were also paid and the quality of the young bulls was of an exceptionally high order. We are inclined to think that the Ayrshire has taken a new lease of life. A dead set is being made by many judges against trashy little beasts with small teats, and good, large-framed, healthy cattle are in demand. This is as it should be. "SCOTLAND YET."

The Foal.

If the dam of a foal has to be worked it should in no case commence until the youngster is two weeks old, and then it is better not to run with her, but be housed in a box stall from the first. This is especially true when the mare has to go on the hard gravel road, as such disease as ringbones, sidebones, and splints, as well as sore feet, are frequently commenced from running on such surfaces. A foal under a month old should not be separated from its dam more than three hours, and then it should not be allowed to suck until the dam is cooled. A copious milker should be stripped out a little before the foal is allowed its share, or the overdose may cause digestive derangement. A little fresh grass or clover and a handful of oats and bran will soon be nibbled at when the little fellow is left alone. From the time it is a few days old it is well to handle it, not in a fooling, careless way, but it should be caught and held until it feels safe, though in subjection. A soft web halter may be applied when it is quite young, when its teaching will commence. A few lessons at this age are easily given and are never forgotten.

When the dam can be spared from labor, the run of a good pasture cannot well be improved upon, both night and day, until the approach of very hot weather, burnt pastures, and the presence of flies, when a cool and darkened box stall will make more agreeable quarters during the day. A foal under six weeks old should never be exposed to even a shower, or there will be danger of derangement and perhaps death from inflammation. Remember that a foal is a delicate animal, that only with care will it become a horse fit to fulfill the offices of a useful career.

Prince Edward Island Horses.

BY F. G. BOVYER.

Horse breeding here is in a very depressed state. Few mares have been bred during the last three years. There are signs of a more hopeful feeling among farmers. As the stock of horses in the Province is diminishing much faster than the increase by foals, a scarcity of horses of all sorts in the near future is a certain result. Our horses are well and favorably known in the New England States, both as drivers and draft animals, and are taken to the West Indies and Bermuda. Many of our best mares have been shipped, but large numbers of good, sound, well-built mares are still available for breeding either carriage or draft stock. My opinion is that large mares give the best results in breeding carriage horses, and the very largest are essential as the dams of such draft horses as city traffic demands.

The Province is well supplied with cart stallions of the Clydesdale breed. Some of these were imported direct from Scotland, others were bred here, their dams being imported Clydesdale mares of good quality. One of these imported mares is a daughter of the famous "McGregor." She is a hard one to beat anywhere.

Standard-bred stallions are here, too, in abundance, and good ones at that; some of them with low-down records and pedigreed to some of the most celebrated trotting stock. We have bred here a considerable number of very fast trotters, but we have not even one Thoroughbred stallion in the Province, and it is a great many years since a stallion of that breed has been in use here. This is the more remarkable as we trace a great deal of the good qualities of our carriage horses to the blood of Thoroughbred stallions which were used on the Island in years long past. There is one good English-bred carriage stallion in use; he was imported by Robert Beith, Bowmanville, Ont., and owned by an Island firm. As he is not a trotter, our farmers have little use for him. We need Hackney and Thoroughbred stallions of the best quality. But perhaps the first thing required is the education of our breeders of carriage, roadster, and saddle horses as to the merits of Hackney and Thoroughbred stallions as sires of valuable stock, for if there was a demand for stallions of those breeds there is plenty of enterprise to provide the needed animals.

We require to study the demands of British fashion in horses as in other articles of farm produce. Evidently there is a tendency in the larger American cities to copy English ways in horse manners, so we may catch both markets by pleasing the British buyer. Last summer an English dealer in horses suited for the saddle or cavalry purposes visited this Province. After inspecting a large number of horses at our principal centers for the horse trade, he said he did not see any he wanted, and left without buying.

The new Agricultural Rating Bill, outlined in the last issue of the *Advocate*, has passed its second reading in the British House of Commons by a majority of 177, with the promise that it is to run for five years only.

Crosses in Horse Breeding.

To the Editor *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*:

SIR,—There are some slight signs of an increasing interest in horse breeding in this district. As to the supply of good mares, though very much reduced, there are still some really good animals to be found, chiefly of the roadster type and general purpose sort, with a few moderate examples of the heavy draft. For the last mentioned a good Clydesdale or Shire horse would undoubtedly be the proper cross and the most profitable for the average farmer, while for the lighter mares a Hackney or good Coach horse on the finer sorts, or a Thoroughbred suitable for getting saddle or harness horses on those of the light, cart order, would seem to be the proper crosses in the light of recent experience.

Horse buyers have not put in an appearance during the past winter to any extent, and the present supply of good salable horses is very low, with a scarcity of young draft, carriage or saddle stock coming on. JAS. A. COCHRANE.

Hillhurst Farm, P. Q.

Good Heavy Mares Not Numerous.

To the Editor *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*:

SIR,—As to the future of horse breeding, I think the time is not far distant when we will again see good heavy horses a profitable price. There will probably be considerably more mares bred in this vicinity than there were last season. Good mares are not numerous; many have been sold and few bred lately. This district is noted for its draft horses, although there are also a number of light horses bred. Farmers should breed draft horses; have good, serviceable, heavy mares and breed them to Clyde and Shire sires. There has been a great many horses sold in this section this past winter, and really good heavy horses are scarce. I am certain the supply of young draft horses is so limited, owing to very few having been bred, that we may expect to see higher prices paid for such animals. There are quite a number of young light horses in this section of the country, but not very many really first-class animals. THOS. McMILLAN.

Huron Co., Ont.

FARM.

Farmers' Institutes.

The work of Farmers' Institutes continues to receive increasing attention in the various Provinces of Canada and adjoining States. In Ontario Province, for example, we notice that while the total membership on Dec. 31st, '95, stood at 11,020, on April 20th, '96, it was 11,517, an increase of nearly 500 over last year. North Lanark has the largest membership in the Province, viz., 330. The date of the annual meetings of the Ontario Institutes has been changed, and will this year be held on Tuesday, June 9th, at 1 p. m. Supt. Hodson, of Guelph, states that after due deliberation more than 75 per cent. of the Institutes have declared in favor of a meeting early in June, which is a comparatively slack period in farm work. At this meeting reports of the various officers and the Executive Committee are to be presented, officers elected, and suggestions made as to where future regular and supplementary meetings shall be held. A copy of the Executive Committee's report is to be forwarded, as per regulations issued, to the Superintendent of Institutes not later than June 20th.

In concluding a circular letter regarding the annual meetings, the Superintendent says: "I wish to thank the officers of the local Institutes for the able and generous assistance they have, as a rule, rendered me in this work during the past year. The year has been the most successful in the history of Institutes in Ontario. We have done more and better work in this Province the past season than has been done in any State of the American Union, and it has been done at less cost per meeting than elsewhere."

Gleanings from Farmers' Institutes -- Division No. 4.

Underdrainage.—The advantages of underdrainage are: It enables us to get on the land much earlier in the spring; experiments have shown a gain of nearly 20 per cent. in favor of early seeding compared with that sown ten days later; the land dries more rapidly after heavy rains in summer, which enables the farmer to cultivate the corn crop more thoroughly; other grain crops are not so liable to rust or blight; crops less liable to be injured by summer frosts; an earlier harvest and better quality of grain.

Where fall wheat is grown it is not so liable to be heaved by the action of the frost; a catch of clover is more likely to be secured, and is not so apt to be thrown out by the alternate freezing and thawing. Tillage is rendered much easier on heavy soils, as nothing is so injurious to such soils as working them in wet condition. We can apply manure on the surface and have its fertilizing properties washed down into the soil. There is greater comfort in all our farm operations, and the health of all animals on the farm is improved.

In draining, thoroughness is essential. Every tile laid down should not only be of sufficient capacity and laid at sufficient depth for present requirements, but should have capacity and depth enough to carry off whatever water will be