

binds, and, in fact, does everything but stook. The man who would have been swinging the scythe is driving the horses; the buncher, strapper and binder are all dispensed with. Two men do the work that once called for the unremitting toil of five hands at least. Economists, of course, tell us that a larger number of men are employed in making the binds, which is doubtless true; but there has been a big displacement of the rural population, and that is not well for the country. Of course, we cannot turn back the clock, but we want to bring some of the people back to the land. This is the big problem, and what makes it big is the difficulty of finding them enough labor to live by when they are settled there.

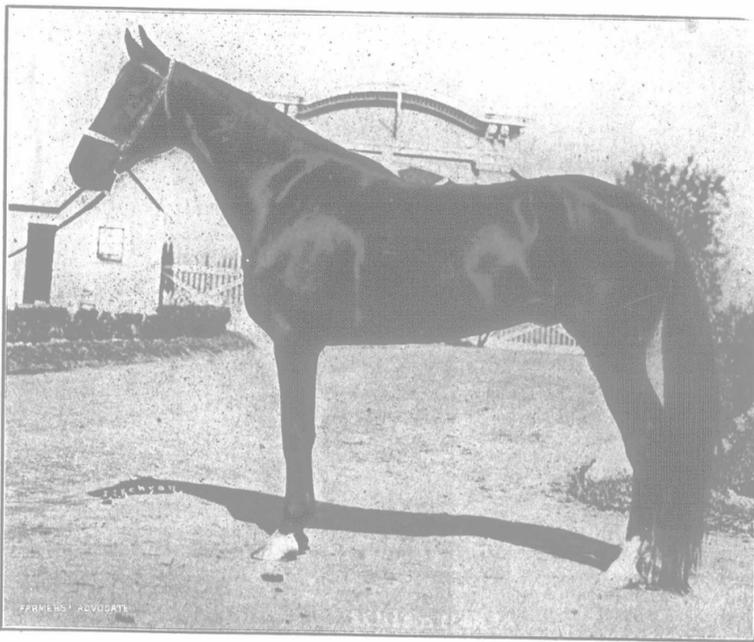
Many panaceas are offered for these ills. Meantime, a heroic effort is being made by legislation to make it easier for the man who wants to remain on the land to gratify his ambition. The Small Landholders Bill is avowed by an effort in this direction. The trouble about it is that there is an element of danger connected with the experiment. It may be possible to place small landholders upon the land upon such conditions as will imperil the security of the large landholder, and the problem remains unsolved as to whether the large landholder who cultivates intensively, growing heavy grain crops, may not afford employment to a much larger rural population than could be planted upon his holding were it subdivided. The whole problem bristles with difficulty, but the country has made up its mind to make an attempt at the solution of the problem of rural depopulation, and considerable risks are to be taken. Theoretically, everybody is in favor of small holdings and small holders. The more people there are upon the soil in the rural districts, the better; and earnest efforts are being put forth by the organizers of agriculture to get the small holders to combine for the more profitable purchase and sale of goods and produce. No doubt the retail trader rather fears this system of co-operation and organization. He sees in it a more or less successful form of rivalry to him in trade, and does not take kindly to the idea. But the day for co-operation has arrived, and the advantages of the system are manifest. The Government also proposes to do something to foster what are called "Land Banks." These are simply local banks, conducted on the co-operative principle, the root idea of which is "Trust one another." Whether British farmers will be able successfully to get over their tendency to individualism to take kindly to these institutions, remains to be seen. Force of circumstances may compel a surrender which one day would have been denounced as outside the range of possibility. At any rate, we are on the eve of great changes in the system of land tenure in this country. No one pretends for a moment that a principle which is good for a small holder can be bad for the occupant of a large farm. If the small holder is to have security of tenure, he cannot have it at the cost of insecurity of tenure for the large holder. If a Land Court is defensible as an appeal court in cases of dispute between landlord and tenant, where the latter pays not more than £50 rent, or holds not more than 50 acres of land, such a court cannot be wrong for the tenant who occupies 500 acres of land or pays £500 of annual rent. The new type of small holder to be created is to be called the "Statutory Tenant," but it does not matter what you call him. The main fact is that he enjoys certain rights created by statute, and cannot be displaced from his occupancy without an appeal to a central tribunal whose duties are to see that justice is done to all parties. Of course, many in Canada cannot understand all this. There, ideas of the feudal tenure of land are unknown, and the fruits of that tenure which abide with us here in Scotland have never been tasted in such new countries as the great Dominion. But there is one set of ideas which must be common to all communities and dominions. These are the ideas of right, truth, morality, honor, respect for constituted authority, the inviolability of marriage, and the sacredness of the family. An old Book is the only guide concerning these things; and if its teaching were to be made the keystone of education in all national elementary schools, one would not fear any experiments which might be made in land tenure. It is the absence of regard for such things as these which is the diquieting feature in the national character to-day. It was not always so, but the lessons of neglect of these things are writ large on the page of history.

HORSES AND HORSE SHOWS.

I daresay little space remains in which to refer to the practical affairs of the moment. Dublin Horse Show closed to-night, and, after three days spent in the Irish capital among the horse men and women, the opinion takes shape that the day of the horse as an element in sport and pleasure is waning. Hunters have not been so adversely affected by the advent of the automobile as the harness horses, but it is idle to deny that they have been affected, and that men will not pay such prices for Hunters as once were paid. Still, it is

true that a really first-class Hunter or Harness horse can be sold for quite as much money to-day as ever he was. The great problem is how to dispose of the misfits. Nobody wants them. The last horse 'bus has passed from the streets of London, and various forms of mechanical traction have taken the place of horses in all departments of labor. He holds his own as the most profitable form of heavy-draft power in the world, and will continue to do so, because, as a matter of fact, he has been proved to be more economical for such purposes than any other form of traction. But this does not solve the problem of how to dispose of the light-typed misfits. A well-made heavy-weight Hunter can, so far as shape and power are concerned, do anything, but he has too much spirit and vim for ordinary close labor in cities, and can hardly be depended on there. But it is not easy to breed the heavy-weight Hunter, and the misfits of the medium and light weights are of no more use than the misfits of the Hackney persuasion, when the cab is a thing of the past. The problem is a stiff one, and is not relieved by the military aspect of the question. Having regard to the Dublin Horse Show of this year, the tops were really splendid specimens of the equine species. Chestnut was the popular color—not the soft, mealy chestnut, but the hard, solid, liver chestnut which well becomes a riding-horse. The champion young horse was a three-year-old dark brown, from County Cork, really a splendidly built specimen of the Irish Hunter, like growing into a great weight.

"SCOTLAND YET."



Uhlan, 1.58 $\frac{1}{2}$; half-mile, 56 $\frac{1}{2}$.

HORSES.

Ireland's Horse and Sheep Show.

Though threatened with either postponement or serious marring, owing to the lamentable disturbances on the railways of the United Kingdom, and other labor upheavals, the great society function and equine carnival, known popularly throughout the world as the Dublin Horse Show, was held amid scenes of undiminished eclat and enthusiasm from the 22nd to the 25th of August, inclusive. The weather was on its best behavior, and the beautiful show-grounds at Ballsbridge, which are being constantly improved, looked to complete advantage, as befitted such a brilliant occasion, when rank, fashion and beauty assemble from all parts of the Kingdom and many foreign countries, ostensibly to inspect and admire our high-class products in the matter of horse flesh. Did I say "ostensibly"? Well, let the word be read in its frankest sense, and not as indicating that our friend the horse is not, after all, the potent attraction. What though society does deck itself with its brilliant fashions, wealth and pomp for the occasion, it is the horse that is the central attraction, and such a gathering as we have seen this week, of all that is highest and most distinguished in the land, is surely a glowing tribute to the place which this noble animal still retains in human affection and appreciation. Though gaiety and fashion invested the grounds with unique brilliancy, however, the crowd was thoroughly cosmopolitan, and comprised thousands of farmers who could snatch a holiday in the midst of their harvest rush.

The outstanding feature of the show was, as usual, the Hunters, of which there was an entry

of just 800, out of a total of 1,163 horses catalogued. The Irish Hunter is a valuable acquisition to its country, but some farmers, lacking, I fear, the foresight, are too prodigal with their finest young mares, which the foreign buyer generally succeeds in getting hold of. In view of the serious subtraction which occurs each year on this account, it is really a matter for surprise that our stock is being so well maintained. The observant regular frequenter of these shows is struck with the more settled uniformity of Hunter type that is being evolved. In the rank and file of the mature weight-carriers there is still a difficulty in securing the requisite strength, without an undesirable amount of coarseness, but among the winners in such classes, it is gratifying to observe a higher standard of quality and breeding. Fashion is still more plentiful among the young horses calculated to make Hunters, and this is an entirely hopeful sign. Middle and light weights continue to show marked improvement, for, while displaying more substance generally, and true Hunter type, they are year after year embodying an increase of blood-like quality and style. But if only we could keep our best mares at home, what might we not do?

Of course, as the foundation stock on which the reputation of our Hunters for speed, spirit and refinement must rest the Thoroughbreds constitute a feature of special importance. Of these there were 127 shown, in five classes, devoted to stallions, brood mares, and yearlings (fillies and colts). The sires numbered 23, and they made a very impressive show, there being a heap of grati-

fication in the general verdict of the critics that the class for young stallions—i.e., eight years of age—was one of the strongest ever seen at Ballsbridge. There was an abundance of good breeding symmetry and style among the various competitors, and the display, on the whole, afforded a comforting assurance as to the resources at the disposal of Hunter breeders, especially when it is remembered that many of the aristocrats of the stud were debarred from entry by a stipulation that all exhibits must have been at the service of half-bred mares at the restricted fee of 10 guineas. The two classes for yearlings are always interesting, because they bring into rivalry

the progeny of some of our most illustrious sires. Distinguished stallions figuring in the pedigrees of the entries in these classes comprised such celebrities as Desmond, Gallinule, Vitez, St. Simon, Hampton, Tredennus, Walmsgate, etc., all of which are names to conjure with in the realm of racing, while there were a whole host of other stars whose fame and worth are already tested. It is clear that there is in the country plenty of valuable and fashionable Thoroughbred blood. It was satisfactory to note that in all these breeding classes, not isolated districts, but the entire four provinces were represented.

Without going into undue detail, it may interest some readers of "The Farmer's Advocate"—it certainly will appeal to all of Irish nationality—if I briefly refer to a few of the chief prize-winners. The Croker Cup, a coveted trophy, which goes to the best weight-carrying Thoroughbred stallion, was awarded to a County Antrim exhibitor, Hugh Boal, of Ballymena, for the ten-year-old Sweet John, a grand County-Limerick-bred chestnut, and a descendant of the famous Gallinule. He is a deeply-substantiated horse, standing on the best of legs, though not too well shaped in his hocks; but he has a splendid back, nicely-coupled loin, and is built on good Hunter lines. The cup for the best Thoroughbred mare was won by T. Plunkett, of Portmarnock, County Dublin, for Yankee, a chestnut of beautiful quality and fine, sappy constitution, sired by the United States horse, Americus. The yearling colts numbered just 50, and the winner was Olympian Park, a capitally-shaped bay, exhibited by N. J. Kelly, of Kilsallaghan, Co. Dublin, and descended from such distinguished sires as Hackler and Isonomy. An excellent mover, this colt possesses almost perfectly-laid shoulders, and the most careful scrutiny could scarcely discern a serious flaw in his conformation. Over 40 fillies were