

Our Scottish Letter.

The month of February was crowded with events affecting stock-breeding, each of which would easily form matter for a complete letter. The Spring Show of Clydesdale stallions was held at Glasgow, and of Shire horses in London; the great spring sales of Shorthorn, Aberdeen-Angus, Galloway, Highland and Ayrshire bulls are past and gone, and this week (the first in March) has witnessed the Hackney Show in London, an event of declining importance, on account of the advent of the motor car, or as you term it, the automobile. The Spring Show of Clydesdale stallions was certainly the best we have had for several years. Horses were of a weightier class, and some of them were quite outstanding in respect of draft character. In this respect the show was a decided improvement on some held in recent years. Perhaps the most marked deficiency from the standpoint of the foreign buyer and patron of the Clydesdale was the gaudy color of some of the best horses. To whatever cause it may be attributed the fact is undoubted that the colors and markings of Clydesdales are much less satisfactory than they used to be. Darnley was a remarkably well-colored horse. There was a minimum of white markings on him altogether, and, as a rule, his sons were well-colored bays and browns with a minimum of objectionable white markings. His great compeer, Prince of Wales 673, was also a well-colored horse, but as both of his grandams were grey his progeny occasionally came rather unsatisfactory in that particular. This, however, did not happen often, and regard being had to the fact named, Prince of Wales could not be accused of doing the breed any injury in this respect of color and markings. The horse which really did damage in this respect was Lord Erskine 1744. He was himself colored rather like a Hereford, and he left his produce of diverse hues. As he was not unpopular as a sire, and many of his sons were retained as stallions, the breed in respect of coloring owed him not a little that could have been done without. The influence of Prince Robert 7135, although he was himself quite well marked, was also in this respect not good. His own brother, Prince Leopold, was of variegated hues, and their dam was a parti-colored mare. Prince Robert became a potent influence in the modern breed through his son Hiawatha 10067, and although he, too, can be classed as not unsatisfactory in color and markings, some of his progeny are not quite free from gaudy markings. Wherever a chestnut cross comes into a pedigree there is risk of ill coloring Clydesdales; not necessarily chestnuts but irregular white markings all over the place. Shires in this respect have been greatly improved. When we first visited the Shire Horse Show nearly 30 years ago colors were very varied. One found chestnuts, greys, sorrels, roans and blacks, as well as bays and browns, and there was little uniformity. This year we saw all the mares and fillies in the London Show, and with the exception of a few greys among the older mares, the colors—bays and browns, with an occasional black—were all that could be desired. The Shire men have certainly worked hard to improve their breed, and have a good deal to show for their labor.

But to return to the Stallion Show at Glasgow, the senior champion honors went to William Dunlop's Dunure Stephen, a popular son of Baron of Buchlyvie. He was unfortunately going lame, and the judges threw the responsibility of saying whether he should be placed or not upon the veterinary surgeons. As they had examined him thoroughly on the previous afternoon and found him sound, they declared the lameness to be only temporary, and the judges acted in accordance with this verdict. The Cawdor Cup, open to all ages, went to another of Mr. Dunlop's horses, Dunure Refiner, a two-year-old, got by the grand horse Dunure Footprint, which himself won in the aged class. Last year Dunure Refiner, which his breeder Robert Bryan, Orchardton, Curnnoch, exhibited successfully as Lord Bute, was first at the Stallion Show as a yearling. He was more or less successful all through the season. He is descended on the dam's side from the sometime champion mare Moss Ross 6203, thirty years ago the best Clydesdale mare on the road. Should Dunure Refiner grow and develop he will make a great horse. At present he is not very big, and it is not easy for the outsider—and especially the overseas buyer—who likes to see a champion horse matured, to follow intelligently an award which gives the supreme honors to a two-year-old colt. It ought to be mentioned that the two best old horses at the show, Dunure Footprint and Scotland Yet, respectively placed first and second in their class, have already both won the Cawdor Challenge Cup and were not eligible to compete for it a second time. Both district premiums of the Glasgow Agricultural Society were awarded to horses owned by Mr. Marshall, Stranmaer, Miltiades and Royal Daylight, as they

are named are a pair of grand, big horses with plenty of flat bone, good quality and weight. A curious fact in connection with the show is the position of Miltiades. When exhibited as a three-year-old he was disqualified on veterinary grounds. Now he is on the Register of the Board of Agriculture for Scotland, passed as sound by their veterinary inspector. To the average layman it appears as very funny, and such incidents add strength to the skepticism of many breeders as to the value of veterinary examination for soundness in breeding horses.

The Hackney Show has fallen on evil days, and yet it is long since so many fine horses were exhibited at London as have been seen this week. The most successful sire of harness horses—that is horses shown in harness—was Mr. Robert Scott's Mathias 6273 at Thornhome, Carlisle, Scotland. A splendid lot of about a dozen horses and mares were shown after him, in leather, and the worst of the twelve was a good harness horse. In the final his representatives were defeated by a white-legged horse named Gay Boy, owned by Martinez de Hoz, an Argentine magnate who resides meanwhile in England. Gay Boy was bred in the Argentine, and is of prime Hackney pedigree. His action while very fine lacks the distinction of the action of the Mathias group, and Gay Boy was certainly lucky to take champion honors from his successful opponent of last year, Wm Philip Smith's King of the Air. This is a beautiful mover, and his name indicates the character of his action. He moves with easy grace, and is only to be adversely criticised in respect perhaps that his action in front might be a little more uniform. In the produce group competition for harness horses Mathias swept the field—nothing facing the three chosen exhibits—King of the Air, Robert Black's Footprint, which won the novice class, and also his height in the open class, and A. W. Hickling's superb black horse Adbolton Black Prince, which won third in his class, and is

shipped direct from the Clyde. This is being done, and the northern breeders have reaped a rich harvest. The Aberdeen-Angus breeders have benefited from the policy of the Board of Agriculture for Scotland in awarding premiums to a large number of bulls to serve the cows of small holders. The result of a similar policy in Ireland has been of untold benefit, and there is every likelihood that like results will follow in Scotland when, in spite of the high standard of excellence attained by pedigree cattle, the common feeding cattle of the country could stand a deal of levelling up. The Ayrshire breeders are reaping the benefits of the farseeing labors of the late John Speir. He labored for years at endeavoring to foster the milk-record system among Ayrshire breeders; but for long as it appeared to little purpose. But at last he got the Highland and Agricultural Society to move in the matter, and bit by bit the ground was occupied until now there is a regular publicly controlled system recording milk yields, and farmers have learned that to get a good price for a bull they must have not only a good individual animal but also an authenticated and guaranteed milk record behind him. The result is that Ayrshire bulls to the tune of nearly 200 at Lanark this week have made an average of £18 apiece, and the top-price has been recorded as already named at £170.

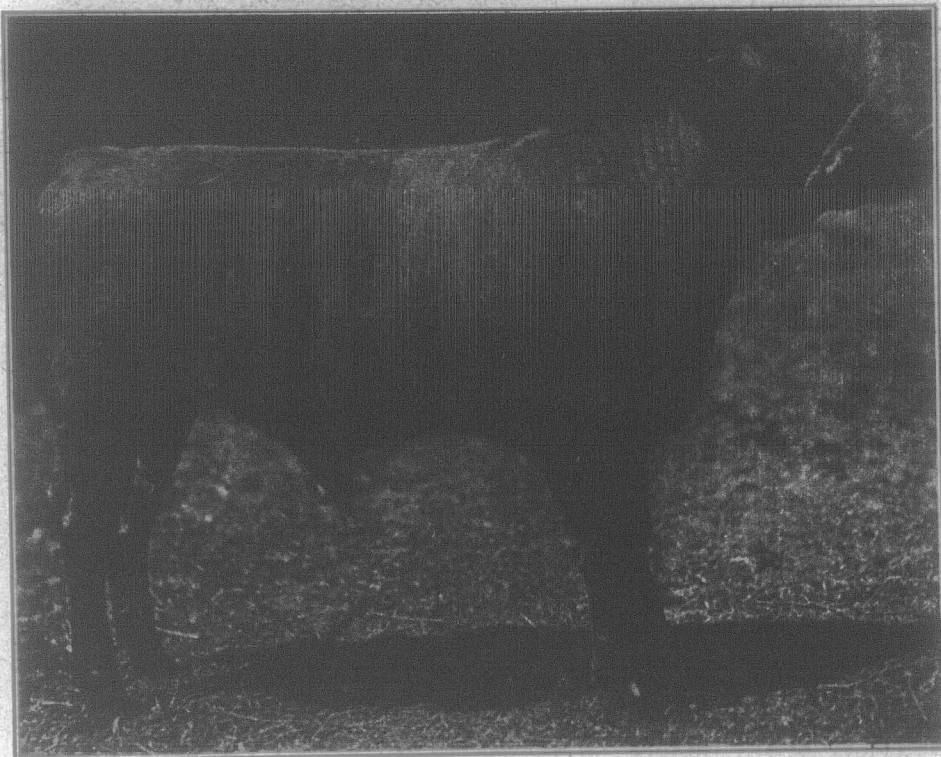
SCOTLAND YET.

THE FARM.

Farm Engineering. PAINTS AND PAINTING.

The coming of spring is a signal for painting everything, house, barn, fence and machinery. Not all paints are of equal value for this work. A paint for woodwork consists of some dry coloring material, a lead or zinc base, a drier and a vehicle or liquid. It is the vehicle which is often wrongly chosen, and in ready-mixed paints the vehicle is the part which is most likely to be adulterated. For outdoor work, except decorations, boiled oil is best. For indoor work linseed oil and turpentine are preferably used. A little drier, litharge for dark paints and sugar of lead for lighter paints, should be added to each batch of paint mixed.

Undoubtedly linseed oil paints are more expensive than others, but they are well worth the difference in price. This oil enables the paint to spread well, dry hard and opaque, and leave a protecting skin over the wood surface. If adulteration is practised with



Sittytton Favorite.

Winner of the junior calf class at the Canadian National, 1913.

quite one of the greatest harness horses on the road. Mathias is a son of the old London champion Ophelia, and another of her sons Hopwood Viceroy, also owned by Martinez de Hoz, for the second time won the stallion championship, while her direct descendants, Beckingham Lady Grace 18902 and Beckingham Lady Gracious 22388, were respectively champion and reserve champion female. Their sire was Beckingham Squire 8070, and their dams are mother and daughter. Beckingham Squire is a son of Polonius, another son of old Ophelia, and while Beckingham Squire won the Produce group for females, Polonius was reserve. The winner of Produce group for stallions was a horse named Admiral Crichton 9578, whose sons bred two firsts. We rather think he is also of Polonius breeding. Indeed without old Ophelia and her sons the modern Hackney would scarcely have any existence.

The bull trade this year in Scotland has been abnormally active. Increased averages were obtained in almost all breeds. The highest price for a Shorthorn was 710 guineas, for an Aberdeen-Angus 360 guineas, for an Ayrshire 170 guineas, and for a Galloway 50 guineas. The reason for the splendid Shorthorn trade is that while cases of foot and mouth disease are scheduled in both England and Ireland, Scotland is free and has been consistently free for years, and the Argentine Government have kept their ports open to Scots cattle, provided they are

either resin oils, mineral oils or fish oils, the paint will either remain sticky forever or will harden quickly, only to soften again in a week or ten days. Particularly should dark-colored paints be looked upon with suspicion unless purchased from a thoroughly reliable dealer, because such paints when cheap, usually contain only unrefined resin oils which soften up within two weeks of the first drying. They never harden again but always give trouble.

One of the best paints for roofs and machinery, yet not a very expensive one, is known as asphaltum varnish. It may be purchased ready for use, and when applied leaves a splendid-wearing, black surface which thoroughly protects the metal from rust.

Water paints as substitutes for oil paints are not altogether unknown on the farm, but the following is a good waterproof paint containing considerable water and thus being cheapened in price. Add half a pound of brown soap to a quart of water and dissolve by heating. To this add three quarts of boiled oil and about one-half an ounce of vitriol. Mix the coloring matter desired with one quart of turpentine and then add this to the paint. If needed, strain the finished paint through a fine sieve.

Almost any paint may be sprayed upon the surface to be coated if the paint is well thinned. Use any ordinary spraying apparatus. Probably whitewash is more commonly applied in this way