

to drink water, so that, when weaning does take place at about six months, the loss of the mother's milk will have little ill effect. The foal's rations after weaning should consist of whole oats, good hay, and if available some green feed bundles. The writer lays particular stress upon the virtues of whole oats, as they are always well masticated by foals: whereas, chop is liable to be swallowed hurriedly, with consequent digestive troubles. If roughage is given in liberal quantities, which is advisable, a certain amount of "pot-belly" will become evident amongst some of the foals, but this condition will gradually disappear later on—and it is certainly better to have too much roughage than too little.

One cannot too strongly urge the great importance of giving the foal every advantage during its first winter, as regards warm shelter, good food and clean water, for these benefits will assist in building the foundation of a well-grown horse. Very late foals, unless well looked after during the first winter, will not do so well as the early ones.

When the mare becomes aged, she is much less able to successfully rear a foal, and also perform her farm duties than she was formerly, and this must be remembered. Also, it must be borne in mind that a mare cannot suckle a foal and at the same time do hard work, without falling off in condition, when the foal naturally will not thrive so satisfactorily. Now, it is right there that the advent of the small tractor assists the farmer in a large degree in raising more and better foals. The small tractor, as now put on the market by reputable implement firms, is well constructed, and can be operated by the ordinary farmer, after he has been given a good practical lesson by the expert. The farmer, equipped with both tractor and horse power, can relegate the heavy field work, more especially the early summer breaking, to the tractor, thus giving the in-foal mares the lighter work, and the rest necessary for them to perform their duties as brood mares, and he is enabled to somewhat diminish his bunch of horses by culling out the undesirable, leaving the best grades for breeding purposes.

Alta.

HERBERT D. CROOK.

LIVE STOCK.

The Shorthorn Congress at Chicago.

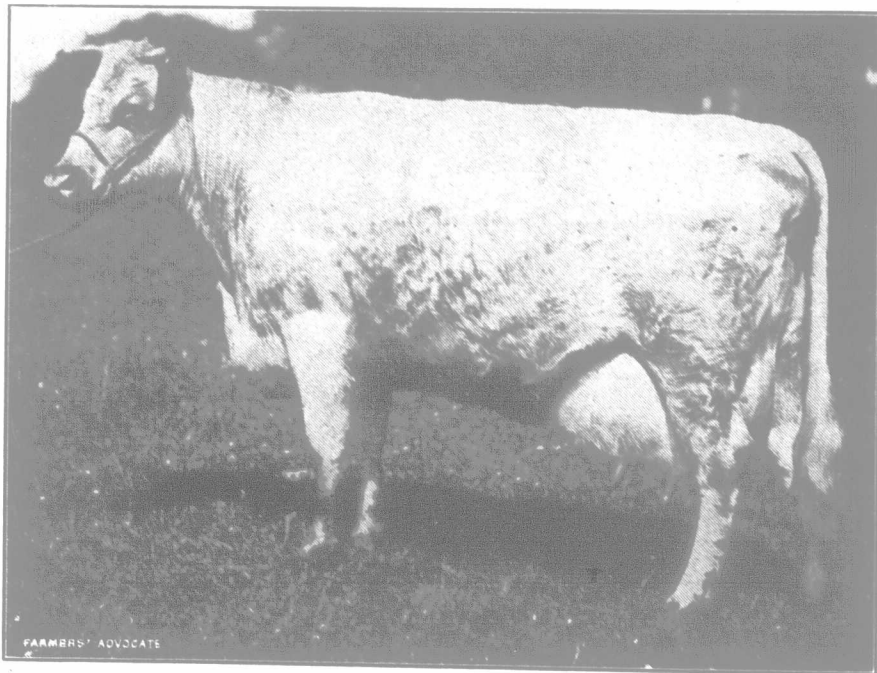
Shorthorn history was made in Chicago during the week beginning Monday, February 18, for this was where and when the American breeders staged their Shorthorn Congress Show and Sale. Cattle to the value of some \$241,639 changed hands between Tuesday morning and Thursday night, at prices indicating a healthy condition on the part of Shorthorn trade. Frenzied bidding was not indulged in, but the cattle sold readily at reasonable prices. The offering was housed in wings of the International Live Stock Exposition Pavilion, and the sale and show were held in the Arena. In the class for bulls calved before April 8, 1915, there were eleven entries. Leslie Smith & Sons, of Minnesota, won first prize on Craven Knight, which sold for \$1,525. Charles Yule, Carstairs, Alta., was the purchaser. The second-prize bull in this class Imperial Mistletoe, realized \$3,000. Thirty bulls, calved between July 20, 1915, and September 6, 1916, were shown. W. C. Rosenberger, of Ohio, won first prize on Sultan Lord, which sold for \$1,300. The highest price paid for any bull in this class was \$3,900. In the class of bulls calved between September 10, 1916, and December 15, 1916, Golden Marquis was the winner. He realized \$2,125. The grand champion bull was Village Clipper, contributed by Hopley Stock Farm, Iowa, and shown in the class for bulls calved between January 1, 1917, and April 15, 1917. His selling price was \$4,500, and he was bought by the South Dakota Agricultural College. The champion female of the show was Viola, contributed by W. C. Rosenberger, Ohio, to the class for heifers calved between June 9, 1914, and February 12, 1916. Her selling price was \$2,800. She was purchased by Frank Scofield, Hillsboro, Tex. Friday was reserved as Milking Shorthorn Day, and fifty-five head of this type were passed through the sale on the afternoon. L. B. May, Pennsylvania, was the most extensive buyer of the females. He purchased two at \$1,000 each, and took eleven in all. The highest price paid in this department was \$1,125. The thirteen bulls averaged \$335, and forty-two females averaged \$517. An interesting feature of the event was the sale of the Red Cross heifer. Red Cross Gloster was bred by W. W. Wright, Illinois, who donated her to be sold for the benefit of the Red Cross at the Illinois State Fair. Carpenter & Ross purchased her then for \$600, but consigned her to the International sale where she sold to Ispedez Farm for \$1,000, for the benefit of the Red Cross. She was then in turn consigned to the Congress sale, where she sold to B. C. Allen, Colorado, for \$1,200, which amount was donated to the Red Cross, and on re-sale she was bought by her breeder for \$750, the proceeds also going to the Red Cross. Seventy-four breeders at the Congress show and sale made special contributions and raised the amount to \$8,573, which was turned over to the Red Cross fund.

There might well be some "looking into" hide prices in this country. The excuses put forward for forcing down prices of this commodity will scarcely hold water. Hides are said to be the cheapest in ten years on the Toronto market, but boots and all leather goods are the dearest ever. There should be a fine slice in profits somewhere for the Government war tax.

Our Scottish Letter.

The past four weeks have seen many impressive changes in the agricultural world. In the end of January there passed away at the great age of 86, Charles Howatson of Glenbuck, one of the most successful breeders of Blackface sheep. He was a native of the valley of the Afton, one of the streams immortalized in the poems of Robert Burns, and during his whole career was identified with the industrial and rural life of the uplands which constitute the borderland between Lanarkshire and Ayrshire. It was as an Ayrshire man that Mr. Howatson desired to be remembered. He took a very lively interest in everything pertaining to the prosperity of that country, and was closely allied with many of its enterprises. In the agricultural world his hobby was the breeding of Blackface sheep. His farms of Glenbuck, Crossflatt, and Monkshead were always identified with a good class of sheep, but in his hands they were put to the very top as breeding centres for tups. Mr. Howatson got high prices for his own rams and for twelve years in succession he won first prize at the Highland and Agricultural Society's show for shearling rams. He was the first in Scotland to pay £100 for a Blackface ram, and he was also the first to pay £250 for a Blackface ram. These figures have now been surpassed the record for the breed being held by A. P. McDougall, Craigton, Milngavie, who got £300 for a shearling ram at Perth in September last. I rather think James Clark, who now farms Crossflatt, got the same figure for one a year earlier at Lanark. Mr. Howatson besides being the first to pay three-figure prices and hundreds for Blackface rams, was also the pioneer in demonstrating that the mountain breed of sheep could be bred for early maturity mutton. He gave prizes for the best fat hoggets—that is, castrated lambs six months old—and in this way fostered a new market for the Blackfaces. Altogether he was a man who served his own generation well, and was laid to rest amidst many manifestations of public sorrow in the churchyard of Auchinleck, where his forefathers sleep.

Another notable man has passed away this week in Lord Kennedy, the President of the Land Court. He was a Celt of the Celts, and was in no way prejudiced in favor of landlords and large farmers. He was



Evidences of Both Beef and Milk.

born in a Free Church manse in Sutherlandshire—amidst scenes reminiscent of the Highland clearances which took place in the closing years of the eighteenth and the opening years of the nineteenth century. In his administration of the law in the Land Court the predilections and warm feelings of the Celt were frequently seen, but withal Lord Kennedy was a forceful personality who did splendid work both at the bar and on the bench.

The War in its relation to Food production largely dominates the agricultural outlook. The policy of the Ministry of Food is to put a premium on the production of potatoes and cereals—to increase at all costs the area under the plough—and as this is a drastic reversal of the whole policy that has been pursued by landlords and farmers during the past forty years, naturally it is not viewed in too kindly a way by many. Lord Rhondda and the Boards of Agriculture are doing everything in their power to induce farmers to accept the new policy, as, at all costs, the volume of the home-grown produce must be vastly multiplied. Every sort of argument is being employed to this end. In one week in December, a meeting of farmers was told the German submarines sank 3,000,000 lbs. of bacon, and 4,000,000 lbs. of cheese on its way to the British market. Furthermore, in order to impress farmers with the actual meaning of War as seen in an invaded country a delegation of tenant farmers has been sent to France. They have been taken over the war-devastated areas, and have seen the desolation there caused. They are now giving their experiences and relating their impressions at meetings of farmers, the object being to impress the necessity for extended cultivation on all and to convey to the agricultural mind what War means for an agricultural area. During 1917 through the efforts of Government departments 1,000,000 additional acres were put under the plough, leading to the production of 850,000 ad-

ditional tons of cereals and 3,000,000 additional tons of potatoes. At the close of 1917 the wheat stocks in the United Kingdom exceeded those at the corresponding date in 1916 by 2,000,000 quarters. But the demand is that excellent as these results may have been they are not enough, and the area under the plough this year must be greatly in excess of that under the plough in 1917. In this connection there has been a good deal of writing and speaking regarding the use of motor tractors in ploughing. The general effect of what one hears is not too re-assuring. Apparently there has been a good deal of misspent labor, and the results are not in proportion to the cost. The best work has not been done by men who are experts in handling motor tractors, but after a few lessons, by the better class of ploughmen, who with a natural bent for the study of mechanics also understand ploughing. The city engineer may be useful enough in an emergency, just as is the veterinary surgeon, but it is the man trained to handle the plough who does work that abides and is profitable.

Judging by the results at the Spring sales so far as they have gone, stockowners have plenty of money at their command. Notable auction sales of Ayrshires, Aberdeen-Angus, Shorthorn and British Holstein-Friesian cattle have taken place during the past month and extraordinary prices have been realized. To take the breed last named first—at a sale held at Paisley by Robert Wilson, Son & Laird, 102 head of both sexes were sold at an average price of £56 16s. 2d., and the 33 cows and heifers included in the 102 made the splendid average of £91 19s. 1d. This last figure indicates the costliness of producing milk. Not so very long ago a sale of these cattle of Dutch descent would scarcely have attracted attention in Scotland, now they have enthusiastic patrons in all parts of the country, and make very high prices. The sale just referred to was an ordinary auction market sale, and the popularity of the breed is indicated by the average prices realized. Where land is fairly good and dairying is prosecuted for the purpose of producing milk as distinct from the manufacture of butter and cheese, the British Holstein-Friesian cattle are in high favor. The importation of Dutch-bred cattle of this breed, which was carried through in 1914 before the War broke out, and the members of which importation were sold at Byfleet in November 1914, gave an immense filip to the breeding of these cattle in Great Britain, and there can be no doubt that the breed has come to stay. Breeders of Ayrshire cattle are, however, in no wise disturbed by the inroads which the Dutch cattle are making in Scotland. Nor need they be. The Ayrshire fills a place all her own in the rural economy of Scotland. She can live and thrive and make money for her owner on land where the Holstein-Friesian and the dairy Shorthorn would starve. Recently all records in Ayrshire prices have been broken. At a sale of dairy cattle held at Torrs, Castle Douglas, 155 head of all ages made the great average of £72 9s. 9d. each. One cow among these, a seven-year-old, named Torrs Missie 29757, was sold to T. & A. Clement, Nethererton, Newton-

Mearns, at 500 guineas. This is easily the highest price ever paid for an Ayrshire cow. The Torrs herd was known to those who looked into these things as one of the best in the Stewarty, although its owner, Mr. Lindsay, was not given to exhibiting his stock and made little or no noise about them. A few days after the Torrs sale the sale took place at Hillhouse, Kilmarnock, of 19 Ayrshire bull stirks, bred by James Howie. Among breeders of Ayrshires Mr. Howie has long taken a prominent place. He was one of the first to maintain that the ideal way to judge Ayrshires was not for "vessel and teats" only, but for general contour and handling, along with the keeping of well-authenticated milk records. In other words that a dairy breed could not be judged by certain fancy points, but along with excellence in shape must be proved to possess utilitarian properties which will ensure commercial profit. He was, therefore, what is called a patron of the "old stock" variety of Ayrshire, and a strong supporter of the milk-record scheme. He has had his reward. His bull stirks have sold well in the past, but this year's sale eclipses all previous records. The nineteen which he offered made the splendid average of £160 0s. 10d. each. The highest price was 550 guineas or £577 10s. paid by T. A. Clement for Controller 16971, and the next highest 510 guineas or £535 10s. paid by A. W. Montgomerie for Topnotcher 16369. These figures hold the record in the Ayrshire breed.

Great as such prices are, and a new feature in connection with Ayrshires, they pale altogether before the prices that have been going during the past fortnight for Aberdeen-Angus and Shorthorn young bulls. The spring sales conducted by Macdonald, Fraser & Co., (Ltd.), have been held at Perth and Aberdeen, and unprecedented figures have been realized in connection with both breeds. The sale of black cattle is now con-

trolled by the Dollar, having calved in the breed, being Harviestoun 1917, so that at the date 38048, and by Prince- ingly well Penny of year Mr. Jelly Eric, which was fine. Eile show and J. F. Cur £297 10s. pherson C £267 6s. for sale 323 y. Last year of the rising of Bleaton, 12s. 1d. for Forty-two and 66 y. average 1 yearlings heifers made than the b

The w traordinar on Wedne would sta Stewart of of 3,100 p of Millhill Cupbearer and his d buyer was Trent. A broken. M for the A Proud Con son, Saph Proud Cl has prove She has pr pions at th Aberdeen. Aberdeen guineas. F agent for and P. G 3,100 guin capped wi Proud Co Collynie h able invest the world. horn bulls £107 0s. 9 average o stituted th besides Pr 950 guine made 7000 Rothes K of Millhil Aberdeen, 10 young traordinar Perth. M Balnabeen to £753 11 Goldie tri making 2 buyer for founded th and, there efforts. Lady Cat shire, got against £8 the Janua of the Mi 2,000 guin Cudham G from the l in 1917 to figure of 1 This was in the clas A. V. Car formidable £493 10s. 6 £428 8s. f Moray's A Perth-shire Polmaie, 5 from N for three S. McWill Keith. At the average of last year. Mr. Ande seven, as last year, group ma was owne