

The Shire Stallion Big Ben.

The accompanying illustration represents the celebrated Shire horse Big Ben, whose owner, Mr. Barra, is proprietor of one of the most celebrated studs of Shire horses in England. This gentleman has been remarkably successful this season at both the London and Royal Shows, having won two first prizes, one third, one reserve and five highly commended, and one commended, and also two reserves for champion cups. Many of these prizes were won with Big Ben colts.

During the last few seasons Big Ben has sired two champion cup winners, three first prize winners, besides numerous prizes at Staffordshire, Leicestershire, Great Yorkshire, Ashbourne, Shropshire, West Midland, Nottingham, and many other leading shows. Big Ben's colts have been equally successful in America at the Chicago Horse Show, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Nebraska State Fairs. In England high prices are paid for his colts. A two-year-old sired by him was sold this year at 800 Guineas.

"Nailstone," as Mr. Barra calls his pretty place in Leicestershire, has long occupied a leading position among the studs of Shire horses. Mr. Barra never lets money stand in his way when he sees a valuable brood mare, or a promising youngster for sale. Few would ever regret a visit to the hospitable Master of Nailstone Stud Farm, after taking a look through the roomy, old fashioned stone stables, with their loose boxes, each occupied by a valuable stallion, thence across the paddocks where grand yearlings are playing about and kicking up their heels, to the fields where the mares and foals stand lazily under the shade of the big oak trees, a picture of rural England not soon forgotten. Messrs. J. D. McGregor & Co., of Brandon, had among their importation last fall several very fine colts got by Big Ben, and we have little doubt that if they have but fallen into good hands, the old horse will sustain his reputation as a sire of prize winners in this country, as well as he has done in others. Big Ben is by Noble (1941), dam Repton Madam, vol. 4, by that wonderful sire, William the Conqueror (2343). His pedigrees on both sides trace back to a rare old-fashioned strain of Shire blood. In appearance Big Ben is a massive, grandly-topped horse, with an unusually deep middle, and well sprung rib; his feet are excellent, while his bone and hair are of the very best, and this last highly important quality he transmits to his progeny with unfailing fidelity in every case. That he may long live to improve the grand old breed to which he belongs, is the wish of every lover of the Shire horse.

The farm yields the farmer a great many luxuries that are not credited

The team that walks fast is the one that makes money for the farmer. They not only get over more ground but do the work better. The hay tedder does not do good work when drawn by a slow walking team. Nor does the mower nor the plow. A 1,450 to 1,500 pound fast walking team is the ideal one for the general farmer.

Dehorning Cows.

THE METHOD, THE PAIN, AND THE ADVANTAGE RESULTING.

Bulletin 19 of the Minnesota Experimental station, at St. Anthony park, reports the following experiment:

Last summer it was decided by the regents to place upon the station farm a herd of good dairy cows, selected from natives, thoroughbreds and their grades. In carrying out this purpose, some twenty-five cows were purchased during the month of October and shipped to the station. When they were let into the yard it was noticed that the larger cows drove the smaller from feed and water, and often prevented their drinking, unless protected by the attendant. It was apparent, that unless some means could be devised to prevent this, serious losses would occur from irregular feeding and drinking and by premature births.

It was decided that the quickest and most effectual remedy was dehorning. This is by many considered a questionable practice, because of the pain inflicted during the operation. In order that the immediate effects might be studied, a comparison was made of the daily

	Nine Cows Dehorned	Six Cows Not Dehorned
Milk yield, first period	316.3	196.45
Milk yield, second period	294.1	190.25
Shrinkage of milk during second period	22.2	6.2
Per cent of shrinkage in milk	7.5	3.2
Yield of fat in lbs., first period	12.289	9.68
Yield of fat in lbs., second period	12.753	8.60
Shrinkage in lbs. fat	464	1.08
Per cent. of shrinkage in fat	3.6	11.

By comparing the yield of milk of the cows dehorned with that of the cows not dehorned, it will be observed that the former gave 22.2 lbs. less during the three milkings after being dehorned, the latter losing 6.2 lbs., the dehorned cows shrinking seven per cent., while the others lost three per cent.

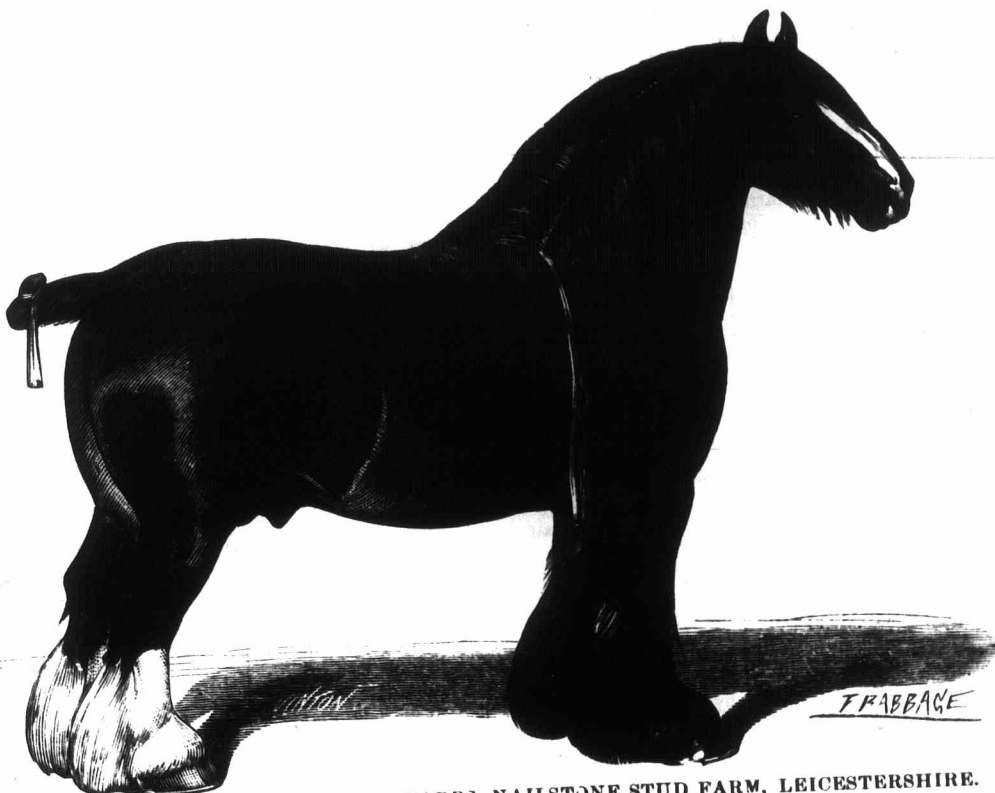
Comparing the total fat products of these two groups of cows for the same periods, we find a much greater discrepancy, the dehorned cows showing a shrinkage of only three per cent. while the six cows not dehorned lost eleven per cent. It would appear from these observations that while the operation of dehorning may cause a slight temporary variation in the flow of milk and fat content, the normal flow and per cent. of fat is quickly recovered, and that cows only seeing the operation and smelling the blood show a greater shrinkage in fat than do the ones dehorned.

Our Scottish Letter.

CLYDESDALES IN JUNE.

The month of June is always a very busy one amongst exhibitors and frequenters of agricultural shows in the West of Scotland. The pressure of show events in the North and South of Scotland comes later in the season. This year the June shows have been well attended, and although the weather on the occasion of some of them was deplorable, there was no lack of enthusiasm amongst exhibitors. Besides

shows, the month has been eventful in respect of various features connected with new developments in Scottish agriculture. One of these is in the form of taking a leaf out of Canadian and American books. The various agricultural colleges that have sprung up within recent years in Scotland and the north of England have received an impetus by the Government placing a considerable sum of money at the disposal of local authorities to be used as they see fit. Some of these local boards have used the sums at their disposal for the encouragement of technical education, and agriculture has come in for a share of the plunder. Amongst other features of the work of these classes organized for the purposes of imparting this instruction, are visits to leading studs and herds for demonstrations in points of interest regarding live stock. The Dumfriesshire classes, which are taught by Professor Wright, F. H. A. S., of the Glasgow Technical College, visited Holestane, the Duke of Buccleuch's farm, when demonstrations in Galloway cattle were given by the Rev. John



BIG BEN, THE PROPERTY OF MR. BARRA, NAILSTONE STUD FARM, LEICESTERSHIRE.

yield of milk and per cent. of fat before and after dehorning. These results were compared with the record of a number of cows not dehorned, but which saw the operation and smelled the blood.

Six cows, that were over five years old, and three that were over four years, were dehorned on the 9th of November, 1891. They were fastened in a stanchion, the head drawn forward by means of a halter and small tackle blocks, until the neck was extended to its full length, so that the horns were sufficiently far from the stanchion to permit the free use of the narrow bladed butcher's saw which we used.

The time occupied was about five seconds per horn; as soon as the horns were removed, pieces of cotton cloth smeared with pine tar were placed upon the wounds. Care was taken to saw the horns inside of the outer edge of the skin, removing with the horn a narrow strip of hair. During the operation the cows gave every indication of intense suffering, but upon being released no sign of pain was visible. The wounds healed rapidly without any other application than the tar.

In the table the first period has reference to the time covered by the three milkings immediately prior to the dehorning, and the second period to the three milkings after dehorning.