

There would not only be a greater production of meat, milk and butter; on this there can be but one opinion; there would also be a large increase in the quantity and quality of manure, adding greatly to the productiveness of the soil, and as well as an increased acreage for growing grain and hay to the extent of at least two acres added for every one used in growing soiling crops.

As already said, what would appear to be the proper line to follow on the ordinary fair tillable farm would be to carry out a mixed system of pasturing and soiling, whether the lines be breeding, fattening or dairying. There is a richness about the grasses in early summer, continuing on through June, that will produce results which cannot be surpassed by any forage plant grown. And on most farms there are portions which cannot be used to such good advantage in any way but for pasture. But from the time the pasture becomes somewhat dry and scanty, there is at once a noticeable falling off in the flow of milk, a check on the rapid growth of the young animals, and a slower rate at which meat is being laid on by the fattening stock. It is from this time forward until winter sets in that the scanty pastures should be supplemented by a full and liberal supply of meat and milk-producing food.

If a change in this direction was to take place generally all over the province, farmers individually would be enriched, our farms would yield more bountifully, the money-lenders would have to seek other channels for investments, and our national resources would be annually increased to the extent of many millions.

Our Scotch Letter.

THE PLAGUE OF PLEURO-PNEUMONIA SHOWS IN PROGRESS OF CLYDESDALES IN THE NORTH

(From our Aberdeenshire Correspondent.)

The toying and playing with pleuro-pneumonia which has characterized the action of the chief authorities in this country in dealing with this disease has brought about a pretty mess. The cattle trade is very much hampered thereby, and the loss to breeders of pure bred stock can hardly be estimated. There is some reason to suppose that the agricultural interest has at least managed to get its grievance taken notice of by the Privy Council, and that a determined effort to get rid of the disease will be made, but owing to the prevalence of disease in Scotland our national exhibition of live-stock has had to be held without the cattle, and this has given rise to a considerable amount of indignation at the remissness that has been shown in dealing with the disease. But the question has on this account received so much attention, and the country has been so thoroughly stirred, that there is all the more reason to expect that the authorities will not again be allowed to go to sleep over the matter. Their lordships of the Privy Council have been compelled, seeing the disease rapidly spreading, to warn the local authorities that unless a marked diminution of the disease was apparent in the course of the next two months, they would be compelled to put in force the provisions of section 6 of the contagious diseases (animals) act and make compulsory the slaughter of cattle which in any way have been exposed to infection. It is not before time that this order has been issued. Last year between 1st January and 4th June there were 98 outbreaks of pleuro in Scotland, while in the corresponding period of this year there have been 186, and 395 cattle attacked. The question came before the Aberdeenshire local authority the other week, and it need scarcely be said that they will accept the most stringent conditions cheerfully if they could get rid of the disease, which has probably entailed heavier losses on this country than on any other country in Scotland. That they will respond willingly to any proposals for stamping out the disease need not be doubted, but they have informed the Privy Council that if slaughter is made compulsory it ought to be applied all around—equally to Ireland as well as to England and Scotland—otherwise the measure will be worthless and will end only in further vexation and loss. Aberdeenshire just now is fortunately all but free of pleuro-pneumonia, and it is expected that in the course of a month the last centre of disease will have disappeared. This is a somewhat important point to some of your readers, who I learn, have been purchasing cattle on the faith that the county would have a clean bill of health in a couple of months. One of these gentlemen I met at the Highland Society's Show at Perth this week, an ex-

cellent judge of our various breeds of Scotch live-stock. I refer to Mr. Johnston, of Greenwood, Ont., who, since he arrived in this country about a month ago, has visited the show of the Royal English Agricultural Society at New Castle, the Royal Northern Agricultural Society's Show at Aberdeen, and besides various herds and sheds throughout the country. I have reason to believe that he has been able to secure a very valuable consignment of Clydesdale horses, Shetland ponies and Shorthorns, with which he will return to Canada. He has bought of Mr. S. Campbell, Kinellar, one of our oldest and most respected breeders, twelve young Shorthorn bulls by the Sittytou or Cruickshank sire Gravesend and a number of heifers by the same bull, and descended from Nonpareil, Cecillas and Rosebud families. From Mr. James Craig, Urquhart Farm, Dunfermline, he purchased two handsome Clydesdales, by the prize horse Un daunted; and from Mr. A. Cruickshank, Sittytou, a yearling colt, by Mr. W. H. Lumsden's (Balmedie) Darnley King. At the Kincardineshire County Show he obtained a very promising one-year old filly, sired by Lucky Boy (3811), and out of Tibby (5443), and which was second in a class of 21 entries. He also bought at the same show and at Aberdeen a lot of Shetland ponies, and in the Dunfermline district two nice bred Clydesdale fillies. The only other transaction by Canadians I heard of was the purchase by Mr. Brodie, Ontario, of Gaudy Girl, a valuable two-year-old brown filly, bred by Mr. John Marr, Cairnbrogie, of the Lord Erskine (1744), one of the best stud horses in this country, and her dam was Gem (3756), by Grand Turk (1148). Gaudy Girl, in a big class of 21 two-year-old fillies at the Highland Society's Show, at Perth, took the third place, and will be a valuable acquisition to any stud.

The show of the Highland and Agricultural Society, which was held this week (opening on the 26th and closing on the 29th) has been shorn of much of its interest by the exclusion of cattle from the exhibition. The directors of the society did not adopt the resolution to hold the show at Perth this year without considerable discussion, in consequence of the existence of pleuro-pneumonia in Perthshire and the neighbouring counties. The civic authorities of Perth, however, induced the directorate to waive their objections to having the show, but immediately on the back of this there was an unfortunate outbreak of the disease near the city, which led to the final abandonment of the show of cattle, and the exhibition had to go on minus a prime centre of attraction. The withdrawal of the cattle caused a great deal of irritation, and the action of the society was freely criticised. A good many thought it would have been better policy to have postponed the show till next year, which would probably have been the opinion of the directors, but for the pressing representations of exhibitors in other departments, who were unwilling to see the show abandoned since they had their stock prepared for it, and besides a large initial expenditure had been incurred before it was seen that it would be necessary to stop the cattle. The end of it all has been that the society will lose a large sum of money over the exhibition, the total drawing for the four days being only £1761, as compared with £3054, which was the amount drawn in 1879, the last time the show visited Perth. This brings out a deficiency of £1293. The show was confined to horses, sheep, pigs and poultry, and there was a very good display of the former: the entries of Clydesdales alone numbered 177. The total number of horses entered was 239, of sheep 530, swine 38, poultry 210, dairy produce 72 and implements 1509, while the prize money amounted to £1552. Our Aberdeenshire breeders came off with a lion's share of the Clydesdale honors. Their successes have been much talked about. In a competition, which is open to the whole of Scotland, the champion prizes for the best Clydesdale stallion, and for the best Clydesdale mare and three of her descendants, were both won by Mr. John Marr, Cairnbrogie, one of the first breeders who introduced the pedigree Clydesdale into Aberdeenshire. I make bold to say, that in the horse world this country will very soon become as celebrated a centre for its stock of Clydesdales as it long has been for its Shorthorn and Polled cattle, and I will, bye and bye, mention my reasons for making this statement. It was about eleven years ago that Mr. John Marr attended the sale of the late Mr. Fleming's stud, at Knockdon, near Maybole, and brought Young Darling (237) home to Cairnbrogie, and a most fortunate investment she has proved herself to be. Young Darling, one of the best mares of her age I have ever seen, is the only living representative on the female

line of the Old Darling family, which produced among other notable animals the famed Prince of Wales, and those who knew the two mares say that Young Darling shows a remarkable resemblance to the dam of the late Mr. Drew's famous horse. It was none other than this grandly bred old mare, whose progeny scored so highly at Perth this week, that headed Mr. Marr's champion family group. To her owner she has been a veritable mine of wealth. Of the male line she has bred the £1200 horse, Cairnbrogie Keir, and the champion Clydesdale horse of the present year, Cairnbrogie Stamp, a three-year old, belonging to Mr. John Marr, which on Thursday last won first honors in his class and the champion Jubilee prize, open to pedigree Clydesdales from all parts of the country. Last year Mr. Marr refused an offer of £1000 for this grand Clydesdale, which, I hear, has been engaged for next season at a very handsome premium by a number of breeders in Aberdeen, Banff, Moray, Inverness and Ross, who have certainly made a good choice of a stud horse. The enterprise which northern Clydesdale breeders are showing in this respect is one of the reasons why I anticipate that in a few years there will be an extraordinary improvement upon the studs in this part of the country. I may also mention in this connection that Mr. P. Crawford's celebrated stud horse Lord Erskine (1744), the sire of Cairnbrogie Stamp and of a host of other prize takers in the north, has again been secured by a number of breeders in Aberdeenshire, so that it will be no fault of theirs, and through no lack of enterprise, if our plucky Aberdeenshire men do not come to the front as breeders of Clydesdales, and that too in a very short time. But, indeed, they can truly enough be said to have taken the front rank already.

To return to Mr. Marr's matron mare, Young Darling, I may mention that her daughters and grand-daughters at Cairnbrogie are remarkably fine specimens of Clydesdales, that have inherited their dam's excellent breeding qualities, and they now number five, making what without fear of contradiction may be called the most truly remarkable family of Clydesdales in this country. Mr. Marr's Knockdon purchases, and his earlier purchases at Keir in 1874, when the first pedigree Clydesdales were brought to Aberdeenshire, set the fashion in this district, and the improvement has been carried on by others. He was almost equally fortunate with his Keir horses. It was two foals that Mr. Marr brought here, the price being upwards of 100 guineas. One of them grew into General (323), a noted Highland Society winner, which was sold at a high price to go to America; and the other into the scarcely less notable Maggie Newstead, which was sold to Col. Holloway at a very long figure. Grand Turk (1148), purchased at the Knockdon sale by Mr. Marr, gave a fillop to Clydesdale breeding in Aberdeenshire; and the Faewells horse, Lord Haddo, an animal with grand feet and pasterns, and strong bone, made his mark in the local sheds, and the improvement was carried on and extended by the introduction of Mr. P. Crawford's valuable stud horse Lord Erskine, which I have already alluded to. Speaking of the characteristics of some of these horses it may be mentioned that Grand Turk was an animal with very stylish carriage, grand flinty bone and perhaps as good fore legs as any horse ever had. Mr. Marr's champion horse Cairnbrogie Stamp is an animal of beautiful proportions, with great Clydesdale character and large scale, a straight cylindrical frame, and well set upon fine legs and feet, while it is important to note also that he has the evenest and sweetest of tempers, and taken all in all he is one of the best horses ever bred in this country.

These remarks have led me away from the Highland Society's exhibition, but they are of some importance to breeders and the digression may therefore be pardoned. The show of aged stallions at Perth was not above an average. Mr. P. Crawford led with a four-year-old brown Prince Lawrence, a horse with the best of feet and legs but short in his ribs. Aberdeenshire bred horses were placed first in each of the classes for three-year-old and two-year old stallions, the three-year-old winner being Mr. Marr's champion, and the first prize two year, belonging to Mr. James Crawford, Brydekirk, Mains, was The Granite City, and both, it may be stated, got by Lord Erskine. Mr. R. F. Campbell, of Craigie, was first for one-year-old stallions with Master Bunnie, to be named here after Prince of Albion, a splendidly bred, promising colt, combining the blood of Prince of Wales (673) and Darnley (222). The celebrities in the female classes included Mr. John Gilmour's unbeaten mare Moss Rose, by Prince Charlie (634), Mr. James