

## Our Scottish Letter.

## CLYDESDALE REGISTRATION.

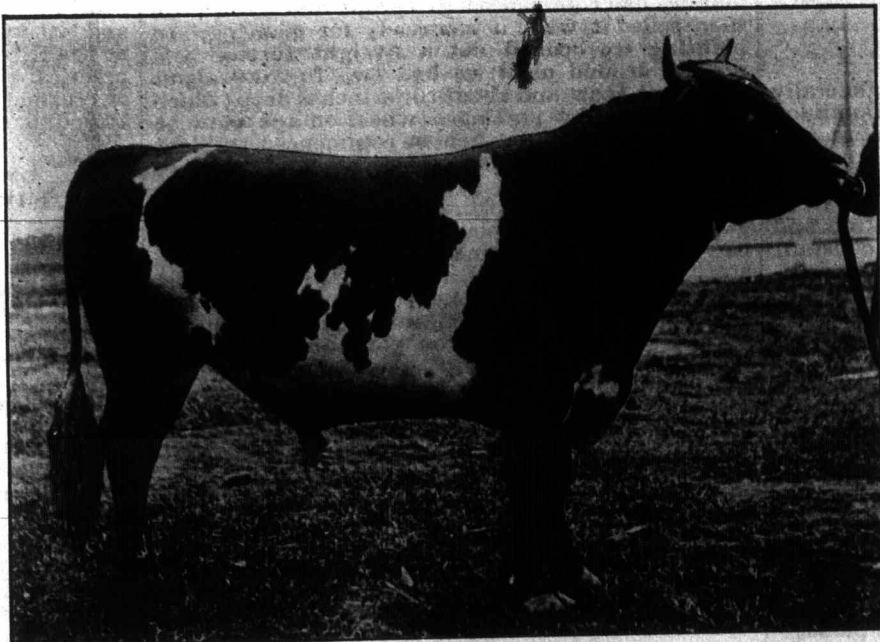
Echoes of a controversy in the Clydesdale world have no doubt reached the Dominion of Canada, and doubtless some indication of the causes of the dissension may not be without interest to your readers. The Clydesdale Horse Society was instituted in June, 1877, and the first volume of the Stud Book was issued in December, 1878. The first meeting to consider whether such a society should be formed was summoned by Mr. John M. Martin, of Auchendennan, and was held in Glasgow in February, 1877. At that meeting the late Mr. Lawrence Drew was present and offered no objection to the proposal to found a society and stud book, but with the others was understood to be a cordial supporter. A few years earlier he had himself seconded a motion, at the meeting of directors of the Glasgow Agricultural Society, in favor of founding a stud book for Clydesdale horses, and his interests were bound up with the advancement of the breed. Hence, there was every expectation that Mr. Drew would be one of the foremost in founding the book. It was agreed at the preliminary meeting above referred to that all who attended the second meeting would be held as joining the Society, and be eligible for seats on the first council. There was a universal expectation that Mr. Drew would be one of the number so nominated, but when the second meeting convened it was found that Mr. Drew was absent, and he could not therefore be elected as a councilman. The reasons for his absence did not become known for some time, but it gradually leaked out that he and Mr. David Riddell were opposed to the formation of a stud book on the lines laid down in the memorandum of Association, and in April, 1879, Mr. Drew published a letter in the *Glasgow Herald* in which he practically nailed his colors to the mast as an active opponent of the whole movement, which policy found practical expression four years later when he and Mr. Riddell, with some others, instituted what they called the "select" Clydesdale Stud Book or Register, the basis of which was examination for individual merit and not pedigree. Mr. Drew died early in 1884, and after a somewhat spasmodic career the "Select" ceased to have any visible existence after 1888. Why Mr. Drew altered his opinion and adopted a policy of antagonism between the first and second preliminary meetings in 1877 has never been publicly avowed. In 1879 he said his objections were due to the standard of admission into the Stud Book; but the standard was not fixed when in the spring of 1877 he altered his tactics, and had he then adhered to his original intention of going with the others he could have dictated his own terms. However it may be explained, there is no doubt that the change of policy on the part of Mr. Drew 20 years ago was the primary cause of the perennial conflict between the Clydesdale Horse Society and the opposing minority. In practical working, the issue of Mr. Drew's absence from the Society was the exclusion of a very large number of the horses and mares bred by him from the Stud Book. Many of these were the produce of Prince of Wales 673 and reputed Shire mares, while others were of unacknowledged lineage. The great foreign demand which sprang up in the years from 1881-91 caused the great majority of breeders of Clydesdales, whether adherents of Mr. Drew's cult or not, to join the Clydesdale Horse Society, but the management of the Society continued to be largely in the hands of the original founders or those who endorsed their policy, which was practically this—to exclude as much as possible all but demonstrated Clydesdale blood from the Register. Mr. Drew was an extensive breeder and many of his horses had great individual merit. These were used by some breeders, sparingly perhaps, but still they were used, and gradually with the slackening off in the foreign demand, and an alteration of the system of electing the council, a change in the personnel of the management was brought about, the issue of which was an inevitable trial of strength between parties, or a renewal in a somewhat modified form of the old battle initiated by Mr. Drew in his letter published in April, 1879.

The occasion of the conflict arose thus: In their anxiety to keep the breeding of Clydesdales within restricted limits, the old council adopted rules which placed new crosses on stock faster than nature could breed the crosses. Consequently there came in a short time to be quite a number of animals outside of the Register, with as much or possibly even more Clydesdale blood in their veins than some that were inside, but their pedigrees did not run in the usual orthodox fashion—with a regular record tracing through the dams. To meet the case of such as far as possible the council adopted a system of registered animals having the requisite proportion of recognized Clydesdale blood,

although their pedigrees might not trace in quite as uniform a style as those in the Shorthorn Herd Book. In other words, all animals were registered if they had seven-eighths Clydesdale blood, even although their sires were not eligible for registration. It was always recognized that this was at best a temporary expedient, and in 1892 a resolution was unanimously agreed to that no horse foaled after 1893 would qualify stock for registration unless he was himself registered. For practical purposes this rule came into force this year; and as matters have fallen out, it will come into force, but not with quite the same results as was intended when it was passed in 1892. The Society has a very large membership, but from reasons which admit of easy explanation, but on which we need not linger, it has rather an inadequate revenue. This has occasioned much anxiety to those responsible for its management, and in 1896 a special committee was appointed to consider the financial position and look around for ways and means to increase revenue. This committee recommended, amongst other things, that the above quoted rule passed in 1892 should be rescinded; in other words, that the system of using unregistered sires should be adhered to indefinitely. Over this proposal the battle raged, and feeling ran pretty high. Eventually matters cooled down a little—a spirit of compromise was abroad—the new council was about evenly balanced; and to make a long story short, a compromise was effected with which all parties expressed themselves as satisfied. Briefly it means that the rules have been cast on the parallel of

another. They should have access to water and salt at all times. Late in the summer or early in the fall is the critical time in the sheep business, because it is the weaning time, when our lambs should receive no setback. When the cold rains of the fall come be careful to house your sheep. Don't allow them to depend on the frozen grasses of the fall; if you do the wool will stop its growth, and the next season you will find a weak place in that wool, and the fleeces will run from two to four pounds less than if you keep them in good shape, and they will not be as well and strong as if properly fed. In the winter be sure that you have a variety of feed of the proper kinds. Clover hay is excellent. Well-cured corn fodder or oat straw is good. Ensilage in many places is taking the place of roots, and giving good satisfaction when properly fed. In feeding hay or fodder use a rack, and don't give any more than will be eaten up pretty clean. Feed regularly. Give the flock plenty of exercise, especially the breeding ewes. Without exercise the lamb crop will not be satisfactory. In housing our sheep we don't want warm quarters for them. In building our sheep houses or barns there are two points to keep in view. One is to have them well ventilated, and another is to have them free from drafts so the wind does not blow in directly on the flock. It is all right to have it open on one side. Have it so plenty of sunshine can get into it, facing the south if possible. I believe ticks are costing sheep breeders thousands of dollars every year.—By Geo. E. McKerron, Supt. Wisconsin Farmers' Institutes.

## A Superior Ayrshire Bull.



GALLANT CHIEF 6816.

OWNED BY J. G. CLARK, OTTAWA, ONT.

This excellent animal was bred by James Rae Sherriffs, Clarence, Ont., and sired by Pendleton 3222, a grand type of an Ayrshire bull, full of vigor up to a ripe old age. He was sired by imported Knockdon 1512, and out of imported Lady Gray 514. Gallant Chief had a most excellent dam in conformation and performing powers. This is why he was chosen to head Mr. Clark's fine herd of pure-breds and grades. Of the former there are few better, while the excellence of the latter was proved at the last Ottawa exhibition by winning the best prizes in the best grade dairy cow class we ever saw together. Mr. Clark is highly pleased with the stock from Gallant Chief, which we might be sure of when he retains him in so valuable a herd.

those of the Shire Horse Society, only a shade more stringent as becomes a senior organization. The minimum standard for horses or mares foaled after 1899 is three registered crosses. Horses or mares foaled before 1899 must have two registered crosses, and thus no animal can be registered except it has a registered sire. There will be a few exceptions to these rules, as the council does not intend to disqualify any animal which might have been registered in Volume XIX., but the general standard is simplicity itself, and a widespread desire exists for unanimity amongst Clydesdale breeders, and the starting of a fresh crusade in favor of their own breed. "SCOTLAND YET."

## Science in Handling Sheep.

"We get the most profit if we sell our sheep before they are a year old. If I were starting to breed with the object of mutton production in view, I would not go to some breeder and pay him \$30 and \$40 per head for pure-bred registered ewes. I would start with the best common ewes I could buy in the country at a reasonable price, and with a good pure-bred sire would raise up a flock in a few years which would be just as good for practical purposes as pure-breds, but you must start in with a clear idea of the line you intend to follow. In caring for our sheep we must use judgment coupled with liberal feeding. In the summer they must have plenty of pasture, which will be best not to be over one and a half or two inches high, and the flock should be changed often from one pasture to

## FARM.

## Stable Ventilation.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR.—This subject is generally understood to mean the purification of the air and the regulating of the temperature within the stable. In designing any system of ventilation it is necessary to understand the properties of the atmosphere to be dealt with, viz.: (a) Air heated by contact with the bodies of animals or otherwise increases in volume and rises above the colder air; for this reason the air at the ceiling of any room is always warmer than that nearer the floor; (b) air which has become charged with carbonic acid gas is heavier than pure cold air. Bearing these facts in mind it becomes a simple matter to provide proper facilities for purifying the air of a stable and keeping it pure. In the first place means must be provided for draining off the impure air charged with carbon dioxide or carbonic acid gas at the floor level. Next, provide for a supply of fresh air, which, being heavier than the warm air inside, will sink below it, but not below the carbonic gas. Then provide for the regulation of the temperature by the retention or discharge of the heated air near the ceiling.

The above is a statement of the general principles involved, and will admit of many different plans in detail, different local conditions, existing buildings, etc., etc., requiring different treatment. No doubt in many cases a very small outlay would make the present ventilating plans conform to these principles; for instance, in the case of your two correspondents on page 151, they can very cheaply drain off the carbonic gas at the floor and put a damper in the so-called "foul air" pipe, and thus retain a large amount of heat (i. e., feed) now lost, and have a much healthier stable than heretofore.

The prevailing opinion appears to be that foul air rises to the ceiling, and should be got rid of as quickly as possible. This I have tried to show is not the case, and that, in the winter months at least, instead of allowing this heated air to escape, every principle of economy in feeding demands that it be retained.

I have made this letter as short as the subject in hand would permit of, with the hope of getting the views of others on this very important branch of sanitary engineering.

R. BALFOUR.

N. Westminster, B. C.

[NOTE.—As our correspondent says, carbonic acid gas is heavier than air—two and a half times, we believe—but he apparently overlooks entirely the operation of the law of the diffusion of gases, which, with the heating of the stable air, etc., when well filled with cattle, makes the solution of this problem rather a different matter. We have recently given the experience of several stockmen who have tried plans different from what Mr. Balfour suggests, with very satisfactory results.—EDITOR.]

Let us farm-dwellers be content at least until we have evidence that the living of the man in the city is as abundant and secure as is ours, and that nature's donations to him exceed that to us.—Aurora in N. Y. Tribune.