

Our Scottish Letter.

The month of March is usually a busy one with Scottish farmers; this year it has been a peculiarly tantalizing one. The condition of things at the close of the month, except for the lengthening day, is more like January than March, and winter with a vengeance is lingering in the lap of spring. The week closing has witnessed snowstorms, curling-ponds bearing, north-east gales, and many other natural features well fitted to retard the progress of the crops. Very little seed has been sown, and the bitterness of the cold makes outdoor labor a burden not easily borne. How long this is to last does not yet appear. The one redeeming thing about the situation is that by the heat of the sun the evil effects of the excessive cold are in some

an absence of unanimity, and the second question, How should army horses be bred? therefore cannot meanwhile be answered. Whether a big horse or a little one is the better, depends largely on what burden the horse is expected to carry. The Boer is difficult to catch, not alone because he rides a small horse, but because he rides a small horse capable of carrying all is asked of him. The primary question in the whole controversy is, What weight should a mounted soldier carry? How should he be clothed and armed? Unless these questions be first disposed of, it is useless to argue for small horses or large horses. The Government officials at the beginning of the war were very chary of purchasing any horse, however hard trained, which could not pass the mallein test. This may or may not have been wise policy, but it undoubtedly kept them out

of a large number of horses in hard condition and fit in a very definite fashion for the work demanded of them.

Milk and its proper constituent of butter-fat is a subject agitating a large section of the community at present. The Board of Agriculture more than a year ago appointed a Departmental Committee to hear evidence on the subject and draw up recommendations by which the Board would be guided in framing a standard. Hitherto, analysts have proceeded on the assumption that milk containing less than 2.75 per cent. butter-fat has been adulterated, and although they have not always recommended prosecutions where this deficiency was found, other elements having to be considered, they have gone on the idea that where this condition of things existed there was room for suspicion and investigation. The Committee, which has just reported, has come out with the recommendation of a

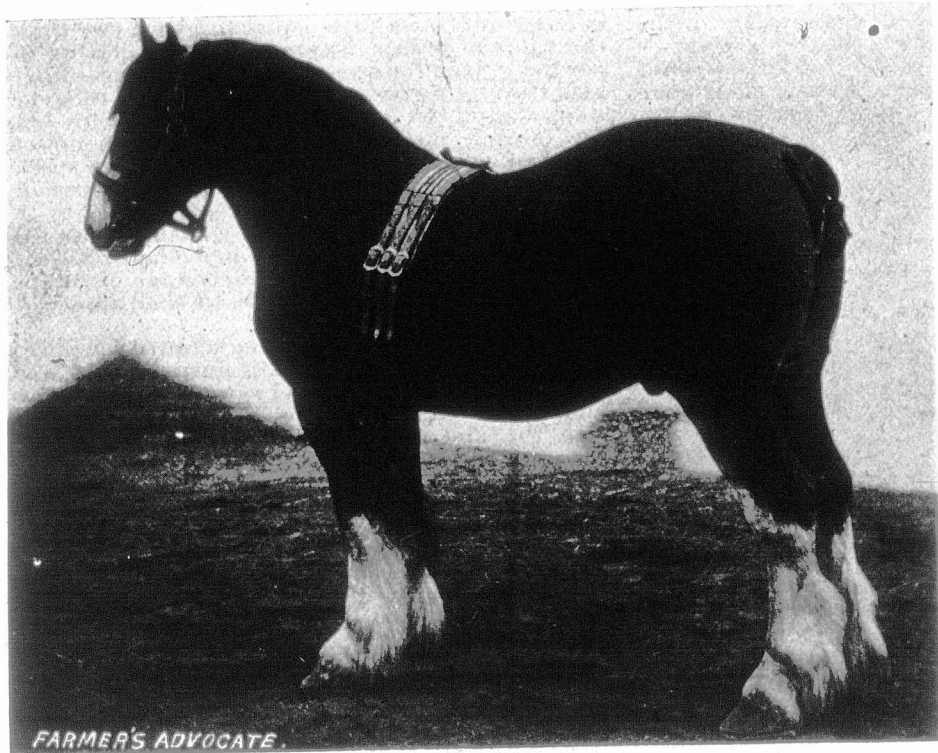
the accused. The prosecutor has not to demonstrate his guilt; the accused must demonstrate his innocence or he is to be declared guilty. In other words, he has to prove that he did not tamper with the milk, but sold it as the cow gave it. He has to prove a negative, and that is not an easy task.

Another Committee has been sitting to settle whether steps should be taken to guarantee the purity of the seeds sold for agricultural purposes? To Canadians it will appear strange that the Old Country should only be considering such questions now. You have had your seed-testing stations for a long time, and farmers in any of the Provinces of the Dominion would scarcely dream of buying seeds unless they were guaranteed. So far, with us, this Committee has only got the length of recommending, and that not unanimously, that the Government should establish a seed-testing station. Whether this recommendation will be adopted remains to be seen. It is a point in its favor that, with one exception, the leading seedsmen are in favor of it.

Care of a Brood Mare and Foal.

If horses are to be raised, only the best of care and treatment will bring them up to expectations, and how much more pleasant it is to have a stable full of good, sound, well-kept animals, in place of a poor-looking, ill-fed lot, that are worth at most their feed for their work. Brood mares should have large, roomy box stalls, where they can have plenty of moving room. This should be cleaned every day and freshly bedded with clean straw. When the weather is fine they should be turned outside every day for exercise; or, if you have any light work to do, let your brood mare do it. At any rate give her plenty of exercise, as this is conducive to easy birth of foal. Avoid slippery places and backing a heavy load with her. Feed her sufficient nourishing food to keep her thrifty, so long as she does not put on an excess of flesh. Keep her bowels open and acting freely. About three quarts of oats three times a day is considered the average feed for a mare. Some boiled barley, not fed too warm, is a good laxative. I do not think it advisable to feed much bran, as it is milk-producing and is likely to cause a mare to run her milk: a result of this will be a constipated foal. A foal should always get the first milk, as it contains a purgative principle. Great care should always be taken to avoid running navel. A good preventive is to apply a weak mixture of turpentine and sweet oil, or about 1 part carbolic acid to 20 parts water, if applied several times, will heal it up quickly.

When the foal is born, drop a raw egg or a piece of butter the size of an egg into its mouth and hold up its head until it swallows it. Feed the mother lightly for a while, and do not cause an over-supply of milk. If the foal is troubled with constipation, give it an injection of tepid water to which a little castile soap has been added. Never allow the foal to run with its dam when she is working, or to suckle her if she is warm. Let her cool off, and take away a little of the milk yourself, as a hungry foal will, as a rule, take too much. Teach



BRIGHT STAR (Vol. 23).

Clydesdale stallion; foaled in 1898; sire Prince of Carruchan 8151, dual Cawdor Cup winner; dam Royal Maid, by Mount Royal 8065.

IMPORTED BY DALGETY BROS., LONDON, ONT. OWNED BY WM. KNAPTON, LONDON, ONT.

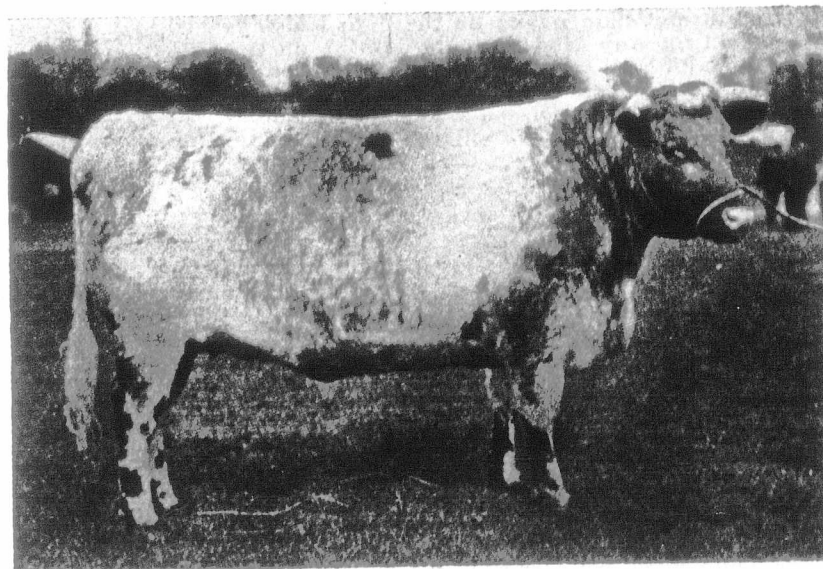
degree mitigated during part of the day. With the agricultural show season in prospect, farmers are not too cheerful, as spring work, which was well advanced for awhile, is now in arrears, and managers of agricultural shows have not much to give away this year. Many of them last year had balances on the wrong side, and should there be a repetition of the same state of matters this year, a few of them may cease to be. There are too many shows, and exhibitors will not be sorry if a few of them cease and determine. Their number is really a heavy tax on agriculture, and nothing will wipe out the superfluous portion of them but lack of funds.

Parliament has been occupied to some extent with discussions on army remounts, and horse shows have been the order of the day in London. The Hackney Horse Show was an unequalled success, and a very popular event in every way. Hackneys are sound, and when the breeders concentrate their attention on producing driving-horses they are likely to attain a large measure of success. The scarcity of good driving-horses in this country is well seen when one looks at the number of foreign horses in use in the West End of London. Of course, the financial question has a deal to do with this. If horses can be produced more cheaply under the aegis of the State in continental nations, Great Britain gets the benefit by her open ports. Horses are dear in this country because the land on which they are reared is dear, and the land is dear because there is a demand for it. This is not a proof of poverty, but of wealth. Agriculture here is certainly depressed, compared with what it once was, and many farmers have a hard struggle to make ends meet. Yet many farmers make money, and leave substantial sums for division amongst their heirs.

The Problem of Army Remounts in this country is this: The Exchequer will not allow the War Office to pay beyond a certain price for horses, and farmers cannot produce a sufficient number of horses of the class wanted at the money. The problem is a serious one, and the lessons of the South African war should not be lost sight of. The issue, so far as horseflesh is concerned, has been to demonstrate the weakness of our present lack of system, and it is well that this weakness has been discovered in connection with a war the issue of which, notwithstanding all our bungling, was never doubtful.

Whether the present Royal Commission on Horse Breeding has accomplished anything worth while may fairly be questioned. It does its work with a great appearance of zeal and authority, but it has neither the means nor the opportunity of seriously affecting the general result so far as army horses are concerned. The first question to be settled is, What kind of horse is best adapted for army purposes? On this preliminary topic there is

standard showing 12 per cent. total solids, and 3.25 per cent. milk fat. Naturally, the dairymen are up in arms against this, and there is some reason to fear that the Committee, which was not absolutely unanimous, has overshot the mark. The witnesses examined included dairy farmers, milk distributors and analysts. Generally, the first-named advocated a high standard, the distributors a low standard and some of them no standard, while the analysts were disposed to back the farmers rather than the distributors. Mr. George Barham, one of the members of the Committee, dissented from the majority and put in a report of his own, in which he recommended a standard of 2.75 for the four months of March, April, May and June, and 3 per cent. for the other eight months of the year, with a uniform standard for total solids of 11.75. No doubt, theoretically there is much to be said in favor of a seasonal limit rather than a uniform limit, but the difficulty in administering such would be very great, and a backward or early season would make a very substantial difference in quality at the particular periods. There was very little evidence before the Committee in favor of a seasonal limit, and the great majority of witnesses, who numbered 49, advocated a 3 per cent. standard. The evidence of farmers who had taken the trouble to examine the question for themselves went to show that the quality of milk in an ordinarily well-managed herd was much higher than is generally supposed. Individual cows there are in all herds which give milk of poor quality, but taking an average Ayrshire herd all through, the general result is a higher quality than people generally supposed. The quality than people generally supposed. The farmers examined who had kept the best records and made most investigations were generally favorable to a high standard. Meetings have been held in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and the dairymen and dairy farmers alike have petitioned for a standard warranted by the evidence and the present state of knowledge, viz., 11.75 total solids, and 2.75 milk fat. Very likely this is what will be fixed. If Mr. Hanbury settles the standard at 3.25, there can be no doubt that innocent men may be put upon their trial, and the curious thing in this legislation is that the onus of proof is thrown upon



ALDSWORTH JEWEL.

Shorthorn heifer, winner of 1st prize and championship at Oxford Show, 1900. PROPERTY OF R. & W. T. GARNE, ALDSWORTH, NORTHLEACH, ENGLAND.

the youngster to eat as soon as possible. Be gentle with it. Teach it to lead while it is young and easily handled. Do not on any pretext let it remain out in inclement weather, for the texture of a foal's hide absorbs the moisture and causes inflammation. Use the brush and currycomb regularly, as this helps nature to throw off some of the poisonous substances which accumulate. Pay good attention to his feet, paring the hoof occasionally. Do this carefully and neatly and you will avoid contracted feet on your horse afterwards. A colt may be weaned at the age of six months or younger. Do not let it suckle too long, as it tends to weaken the next foal if the mare is in foal again.

Perth Co., Ont.

AN OLD HORSEMAN.