

bred with an entirely different type and purpose in view.

Now is the time to consider carefully the horse-breeding prospects of the coming season. Winter is a good time for meditation upon past and decision upon future policies. A district may have a half-dozen good stallions of as many different breeds, and still not be noted for its good horses, because there is not enough of any one breed to make an impression. Place in the same district the same number of stallions of the same breed and as nearly as possible the same type of that breed, stallions of the breed of which most of the mares of the district are good grades and let the mares be bred to these horses exclusively, and soon will it be known that such a district is a horse district and where a buyer, to get a carload of young horses of a particular breed, now has to cover many miles, he would then be able, after a few years of such policy, to fill his requirements in a short time in one district to his own and to the breeders' satisfaction and benefit. Too many breeds in a district means too much division of policy, too much "knocking" of the other fellow's horse, not enough co-operative effort, too much cutting of service fees to secure trade, and a consequent lowering of the breeding standard of the horses of the district.

We would not say that any established and useful breed should be boycotted out of the country. Far from it. There is room and a place for all, but not in one and the same small territory. Each district should be, and is, suited to the production of some particular class of horse. Of course the drafter is the most suitable for the farmer to breed, but he may also require a light horse or two for his road purposes. The light horse and heavy horse business should not conflict to any great extent, and would not if breeders would not cross the two types in an effort to get a half-way general-purpose animal—one which horsemen and show managements for years have found difficulty in classifying properly, and most are still much at sea as to just what constitutes a general-purpose horse. It would often pay the farmer better to go out and buy his driver in a district noted for light horses or in a light horse breeding district, rather than endeavor to breed one himself from his heavy mare and the roadster, hackney, thoroughbred, or coach stallion, travelling on his concession. A good colt from his heavy mare and a heavy horse would likely more than pay for his driver, and he would have a real driver—not a misfit. Such a policy would surely promote horse breeding the country over. It would eliminate "scrubs" resulting from injudicious mixed breeding, would raise horse values, and increase interest in the horse business generally and in the particular breeds.

LIVE STOCK

Many herds will require headers for the coming season. Good bulls are never over-plentiful. Make a selection early and get the best available.

Do not confine the brood sow too closely. Outdoor exercise, even if the weather is cold, does her no harm; in fact, it makes for success with the coming litter.

Let the light into every stall. Short days and long nights and dull weather make enough darkness under the best of conditions, and dark stalls do not promote health.

How often one sees a man, and sometimes two or three men, trying to lead a cow or heifer which has not been taught the use of the halter, the animal nervous, excited, and generally stubbornly refusing to go in the direction desired; the men also excited and applying some of the roughest of persuasion, which only serves to increase the trouble. All this could be avoided by teaching the animal to lead when a calf. A little of winter's leisure may be profitably employed in teaching the calves, particularly the heifers to be added to the herd, to lead.

Quietness and gentleness are admirable at all times in caring for stock. Firmness is sometimes necessary, but firmness never means harsh words and abuse. Were you ever jammed in an old-fashioned stall by a nervous cow? Did "loud talk" and vicious blows cause her to stand over and let you out? Such is not generally the case. The more she is scolded and the more blows she receives, the tighter she squeezes you against the stall partition. Why? Because it is nervousness or fear that causes her to do this in the first place, and yelling and punishment increase the fear and also increases the cow's efforts to put its cause away from her. Petting and quieting words are far better balm for the cow's ruffled spirits than boisterous conduct.

Our Scottish Letter.

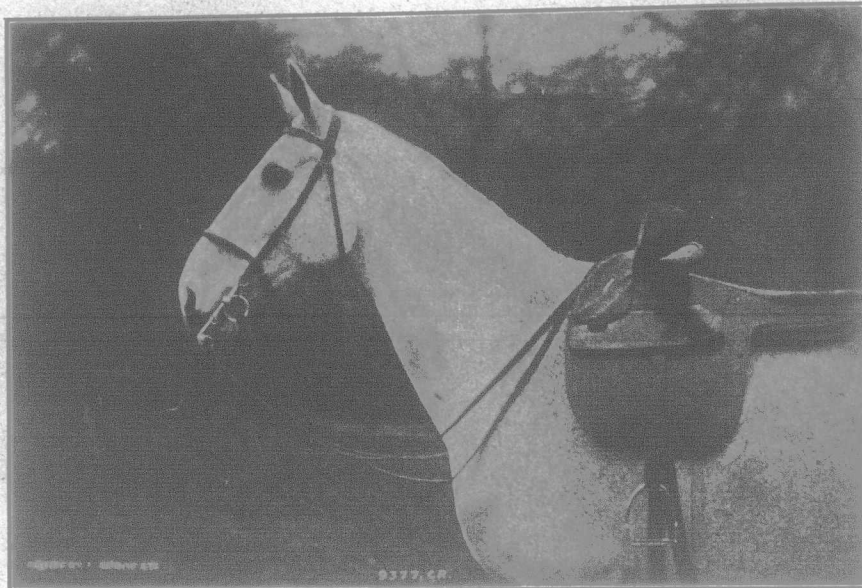
This will be my last letter for 1912, and it has just occurred to me to ask how many years have passed since I wrote the first of these occasional communications? Certainly more than twenty, and these years have witnessed many changes. I imagine it must have been about a quarter of a century since I wrote the first during the time that Mr. Hodson was Editor of the "Farmer's Advocate." The closing year has witnessed the passing of some of the most prominent men in our Scottish agricultural life. During the past ten days Provost Ferguson, of Renfrew, well-known to all Canadian and American buyers of Clydesdales a quarter of a century ago,

past, and there was every prospect of trade between Ireland and Great Britain being resumed on normal lines within a very few days. Then came the announcement of an outbreak away down in Kent, South of London, and a few days later the still more disquieting announcement that among cattle shipped from Newry, in South Ulster, to Birkenhead for immediate slaughter two with affected heads had been found. This at once led to the re-imposition of the embargo in full force; and just as we were beginning to breathe freely again, this fresh discovery in Glasgow upsets all our calculations.

Since the first outbreaks in June, there has been an uneasy feeling that Irish methods of administration were defective—that there was, in

fact, laxity of administration, or ignorance, or culpable negligence on the part of those in authority, and possibly a combination of all three. This view was strengthened by the admission of the head of the Irish Department that his officials had failed to trace the place whence these two cattle came. At the Farmer's club dinner in London on Tuesday evening Mr. Runciman, the head of the Board of Agriculture and Fishing, was able with pardonable satisfaction to boast that no one case had occurred during the past six months for which blame could in any way be laid at the door of his department, and, speaking at Glasgow on the previous Saturday, his lieutenant, Lord Lucas, made the very satisfactory announcement that under no circumstances would the importation of cattle from Ireland be again allowed without some kind of inspection at the ports of landing on this side of the channel. Recent experiences all go to strengthen the British Board in adopting this policy. Under the old conditions Ireland was supposed to be so immune from every form of contagious disease in cattle that the ports of this island were unreservedly thrown open to them, and no questions were asked. This year we have had a rude awakening, and it will take a deal to convince British farmers that all is well in Ireland so far as disease in cattle is concerned. One good result of this year's experience

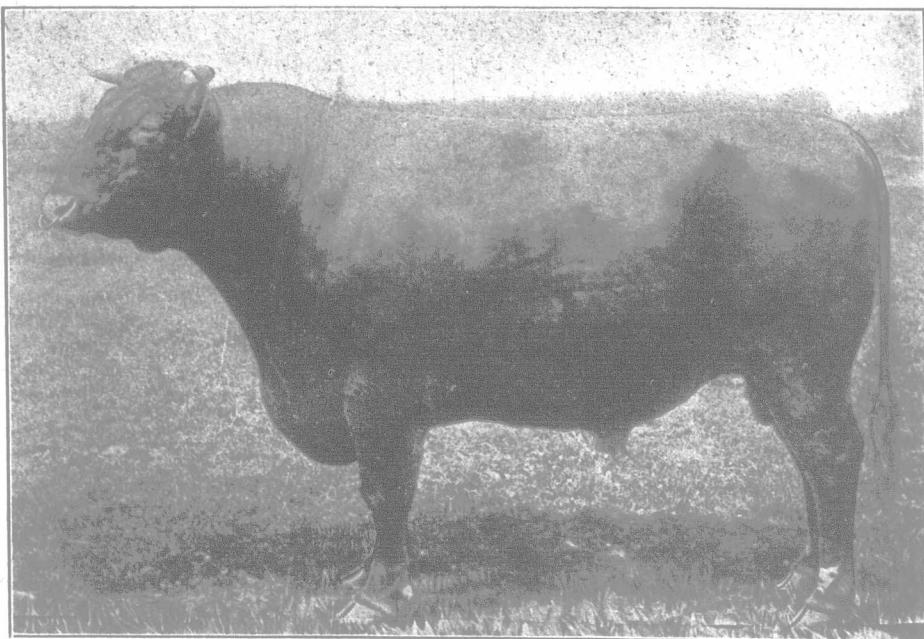
has been to increase interest in breeding on this side the channel, and there has also been a revived interest in feeding cattle in Ireland. That much more could be done in both directions is undoubtedly, but the great proportion of Irish territory must always make the Green Isle more of a breeding than a feeding country. The chief enemy of the Irish farmer is his own happy-go-lucky disposition. He lacks the faculty of sticking at it, and is far too much given to talking. At present, when every effort should be strained to effect a clearance of foot-and-mouth disease, the Irishman is greatly given to



A Sadler.

passed away. He was a close friend of Henry Jeffrey, of Whitby, Ont., and Alex. B. McLaren who still manages the Clydesdale department of the Nelson Morris House in Chicago. He did a large trade in Clydesdales during the boom from 1880-1890, but as this was only a subsidiary occupation for him, he gave up the business shortly after the beginning of the nineties, and had no hand in the later Clydesdale developments. He was a most genial companion, and very likeable in any company. Perhaps his most familiar friend of the older regime was the late Charlie Huston, of Blandinsville, Ill., who often made his home with Mr. Ferguson, and largely took his advice in connection with his Clydesdale purchases. As late as February last, Mr. Ferguson acted as a judge of Clydesdales at the Glasgow

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Senator Lavender =79917=.

Shorthorn bull at head of herd of A. W. Smith, Maple Lodge, Ont. Sire College Senator =46048=, dam Lavender Thyme 7th (imp.) =38207=.

Stallion Show, and his genial presence will be sorely missed in many a gathering.

The closing year has been marked by one unfortunate feature for British agriculture—the presence in Ireland and, to a less extent, in England of foot-and-mouth disease. It first made its appearance in England in the end of June, was at once traced to Ireland, and up to this date neither country has altogether succeeded in getting rid of it. To-night it is intimated that among certain carcasses imported from Ireland into Glasgow two, if not three, heads have been found affected by the disease. When I last wrote there was reason to believe that the worst was

orating and complaining about the alleged unfairness of the British attitude. He forgets altogether the enormous loss incurred by British stock breeders through the cutting off of the export trade. This has been put at £800,000, but, without committing ourselves to such extraordinary figures, it is undoubtedly that the loss has been very serious.

The principal fat stock shows are now all over for another year. It has been a very successful year for the Shorthorn and its crosses. At the London and Birmingham Shows, an Aberdeenshire-bred pure Shorthorn bullock, owned by Mr. Hazale, in Kent, has been champion, and at