

Our Scottish Letter.

A TIME FOR FISCAL INQUIRY.

This is an old country, but we are just beginning to discover that we have not solved all problems. A big fight is brewing over the fiscal proposals of Mr. Chamberlain. One does not require to be a profound student to see that the policy which he has outlined is fitted to be of considerable advantage to the Empire as a whole. The primary question, however, is not that, but, what is likely to be its influence on the particular part of the Empire called the United Kingdom? Those who suppose offhand that farmers are favorable to anything that savors of protective tariffs are likely to find themselves in error. Forty years ago farmers possibly cherished such views, but the lessons of the intervening period have not all been on one side. Farmers have adjusted themselves to the new conditions. Land is much reduced in value. Landowners have suffered greatly. The farmers who held land under leases of the old sort, and during the transition period, also suffered greatly. Much capital was lost by all interested in land. But the transition period is over. New conditions have been created, and a very large body of farmers are as much interested in cheap imports as any dweller in the big cities. Dairy farmers use large quantities of imported feeding stuffs. Those engaged in feeding for the fat market are similarly situated. It is only among the wheat-growers of Lincoln that a vote could be got right away in favor of a protective tariff on wheat. Everywhere, almost, there is a prevalent feeling that Mr. Chamberlain's policy is more likely to secure adherents among the artisans and manufacturing classes than in agriculture. Farmers put it bluntly when they say that they can see how Chamberlain's policy would help our wheat-growing colonies, but they don't quite see how it is going to help those who long ago ceased to be wheat-growers. The question is a very big one, and it will not be settled in a day. Sensible men everywhere agree that no harm can come of investigation and exhaustive enquiry. After a trial of one particular fiscal policy for half a century, there can be no possible harm in asking whether there may not be points in the policy capable of improvement?

VETERINARY EDUCATION.

One of the big questions of the immediate future in connection with agriculture is the consolidation of veterinary education. It would be absurd to affirm that education of this kind is on a satisfactory footing in Scotland. We have three good colleges—two in Edinburgh and one in Glasgow. They are to all intents and purposes private ventures, and largely owe their measure of success to the individuality and force of character of their respective founders. Depending almost wholly on the fees of students, these colleges are not self-supporting. They are not able to pay salaries to teachers, which would make them independent of private practice, and nearly all of them have to engage in that work. This has its advantages, but one need not expect from Scottish colleges any contribution to research work while such conditions prevail. Of the three colleges, the oldest is the Royal (Dick) College in Edinburgh. It was founded by the late Professor Dick, and when he died he left considerable sums as an endowment. This is administered by the Town Council of Edinburgh, along with some other trustees. These endowments are to be still further augmented by funds provided from the capital sum set aside by Professor Dick to provide an income for his sister, Miss Mary Dick, who died some time ago, and by a substantial sum set aside by Mr. A. Inglis McCallum, a practicing V. S. in Edinburgh. Altogether the Dick College will soon be in a sound financial condition, but even then it will not be possible to claim that the provision for veterinary education in this country is adequate. We want one thoroughly good veterinary college for the whole of Scotland, liberally endowed, and able to command the services of the very best men in their respective departments. Whether we will get this is another matter. Certainly it will not come our way unless we agitate for it.

COUNTY SHOWS

have been all the rage during the past few weeks. Grand collections of stock have been seen at Perth, Forfar, Dingwall, Keith and Elgin. In these northern latitudes the leading features are always Shorthorn, Aberdeen-Angus and cross cattle. Clydesdale horses are as popular in the north as in the dairying districts of the south-west and west. In Peebles and the upper ward of Lanarkshire the leading features are invariably the sheep classes. The three breeds, Border Leicesters, Blackfaces and Cheviots, are about equally represented. At Peebles this year a pleasing variety was introduced in a sheep-dog trial. No form of exercise at a show attracts one half as much attention as does this. Tweeddale, as Peebles of old was called, is a great Chev-

iot pasturage. The quality of sheep reared on its hills is excellent. Teviotdale, or Rosburgh, perhaps, excels it, but in the Merse or Berwickshire, the sheep industry has fallen on evil days. It used to be the headquarters of the Border Leicesters, and Kelso is still the great rendezvous of the breeders of that variety. But so far as show-sheep are concerned, almost any part of Scotland excels the Merse. This year Angus or Forfarshire has been the leading county in the show-yards alike for Scottish Shorthorns and Aberdeen-Angus cattle, as well as for Border-Leicester sheep. The show at Forfar extended over two days. It was the jubilee celebration, and a great success in every way. Of all these shows, Dingwall, the capital of Ross-shire, had the



A 15-MONTHS SHORTHORN HEIFER.

In the Agassiz herd.

greatest variety. In place of holding half a dozen smaller shows from Inverness to Cape Wrath, all the northern societies combined to hold one big event at Dingwall. The effort was well sustained, and the results altogether gratifying. Easter Ross is one of the finest agricultural districts in Scotland, and the stock exhibited at Dingwall reached a very high standard of merit. One of the most successful exhibitors was Mr. Jas. A. Gordon, of Arabella, whose beautiful two-year-old Shorthorn bull, Prairie King, championed his section. Mr. Dyson Perrins, of Ardross, showed very fine Aberdeen-Angus cattle, and championed that section with the Ballindalloch-bred bull, Rosador.

THE CLYDESDALE TRADE.

Canadian buyers of Clydesdales have been very



SHORTHORNS ON CLOVER AFTERMATH.

British Columbia Experimental Farm.

active of late. Mr. George Isaacs, who ships Shorthorn cattle as well as Clydesdales, took away a useful shipment of over half a dozen Aberdeenshire Clydesdales about a month ago. Some of them had been winning prizes at the north-eastern shows, and altogether they looked like doing some good in Canada. Mr. Tom Graham, of Graham Bros., Claremont, Ont., paid us his first visit, and if he is spared, we are pretty confident it will not be his last. Mr. Tom knows a horse, and some of the best judges here

have a notion that he is the best Graham of the bunch. Anyhow, he made a fine selection of really high-class horses and mares. Messrs. Mowat & Babe, Shelburne, sailed by the same steamer with a smaller lot, but they will not be long in finding homes. Dalgety Bros., London, continue to send steady shipments of serviceable, well-bred, big stallions. One of these shipments left a week ago. To-day (15th August), Mr. Hogate, Sarnia, is to start with ten stallions, and Mr. Neil Smith, Brampton, and Mr. George Nixon, Mitchell, have horses going by the same ship. Orders have been booked by Mr. James Kilpatrick for the Australian market, and the Messrs. Montgomery have sold their first-prize two-year-old colt at the Royal, Premier Pride, to a buyer from New Zealand. Several U. S. buyers are in the country, including Mr. Alex. Galbraith, from Janesville, Wis., and Mr. Turner, from Pennsylvania. There appears to be a big dispute in the Northwest about the Clydesdale and the Percheron. It's all right. The Clydesdale has never been boomed as the Percheron has been, but if work requires to be done the Clydesdale is the horse to get through with it. The extent to which buyers are thronging us at present is proof that the Clydesdales is in demand. The best aged gelding of the season, Mr. Hastie's four-year-old horse, by McIlroy, has been bought for the Chicago market, and leaves this country next week.

Ayrshire cattle breeders will regret to learn that the doyen of that cult, Mr. John Murray, Carston, Ochiltree, died in the third week of July. He had reached the extraordinary age of 99, and up to the very last had an unclouded intellect, and was able to take an interest in all that was going on. He was one of the leading men of the Ayrshire trade, and his mantle fell on his sons, Mr. James Murray, Muir, Cumnock, and the possibly better known John Murray, of Carston. Carston Ayrshires had a world-wide reputation, and won the laurels in many a keen fight.

"SCOTLAND YET."

Back to the Farm.

Every farmer boy wants to be a school teacher, every school teacher hopes to be an editor, every editor would like to be a banker, every hanker would like to be a trust magnate, and every trust magnate hopes some day to own a farm and have chickens and cows and pigs and horses to look after. We end where we begin.—[Saline County (Kan.) Index.]

Gold Medal Appreciated.

Bradwardine, Aug. 18, 1903.

Editor Farmer's Advocate, Winnipeg:

Dear Sir,—The gold medal you mailed me arrived to-day in first-class shape.

It is quite artistic, and I am quite proud of it.

I beg leave to thank you with all my heart for the generosity which prompted you to offer such a valuable prize in such a worthy cause.

It will be a pleasure to me to aid you (at any time in the future, if I can) to advance the interests of agriculture or agricultural instruction in the Northwest.

Thanking you again for the medal, I remain,
Yours respectfully,
HARRY V.

CLENDENING.

Wheat Rates Reduced.

For ten cents per hundred pounds, or six cents per bushel, wheat is now carried from Winnipeg to Port Arthur over the Canadian Northern Railway, fixed by Order-in-Council of the Provincial Government. An equal reduction in rates went into effect on September 1st at all other points on the Canadian Northern in Manitoba. This makes a total reduction in rates on grain of four cents per hundred within three years.