

The Situation in Clydesdale Circles.

There appears to be a change of front on the part of the secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Association of Great Britain, which probably reflects the opinions of Scottish breeders upon the question of the registration of females. A few months ago, when the notice of motion to amend the rules of registration in the Canadian book was before the Canadian Association, the secretary in Scotland endorsed the scheme and urged the Scottish breeders to register practically everything they could get into the book the produce of which would be likely to be required for export. Now Mr. McNeillage is authority for the statement that Canadian breeders do not well understand the difficulty the secretary of the British book will have to contend with to secure the registration and numbering of the grandparents of all the stock likely to be exported and professes not to be able to see how the scheme can be worked out. Canadians take a different view of the registration principles to that held by Scotchmen and some Englishmen. The first principle the Scottish Clydesdale breeders lay down is that the female is the basis of all improvement in live stock breeding, and that the utmost care must be exercised in keeping her record; as for instance she must not be given a number until she has produced a foal. We on this side are more particular about our stallions. We admit mares with four registered top crosses and demand five in stallions and find it more convenient to register a filly and give her a number at once rather than to wait until she has produced.

The way things stand now there are quite a considerable number of Clydesdales in Scotland that if imported could not be registered in Canada, in which case there are two options, to proceed to register and number as many of the granddams of these horses or fillies as possible (most of the dams are registered and numbered) or to continue as in the past to neglect registration and so be obliged to retain a large number of this breeding stock at home. Self-interest we should suppose would dictate the former course. As for the Canadian Association, they may be depended upon to maintain the position they have recently taken as the letter of Mr. Smith in our last issue amply indicates and even if the procedure was not absolutely constitutional the executive claims that the association will have the constitution amended so that the amended rule will be constitutional. Of course there is nothing to hinder a man importing Clydesdales from Great Britain for breeding purposes and having them enter Canada duty free, provided they are recorded in the Scottish Studbook and in many cases the get of such animals will be eligible for registration in the Canadian book.

The chief object of the Canadian executive in amending the rules of registration for imported stock is to make our rules consistent so that it will not be said that stock of inferior breeding,

so long as it is imported, can be registered in the Canadian book, while home-bred stuff of superior breeding is not eligible.

The Scottish breeders should not shut their eyes to the fact that Canada has some very superior home-bred Clydesdales, as the awards of Mr. Gibson at Winnipeg indicate, and that there is a growing disposition among buyers not to take the shorter pedigreed mares for other than working purposes or to raise working stock. The demand for Scottish mares that is being experienced in Canada must not be mistaken for a demand for improvement purposes only.

Did Not Advise Small Hackneys.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

A little knowledge may be a dangerous thing but invincible ignorance shows the folly of wisdom.

As a member of "the coterie of lecturers who meandered up and down this Western land during the past winter delivering lectures on live stock," I wish to say in contradiction of the statement in your issue of June the 19th that in no case did any member of that coterie preach the doctrine that a Hackney should be "fifteen two hands high and that fifteen hands would do." The palpable absurdity of the doctrine is so plain to the readers of your valuable paper that it does not need refutation.

Your premises being utterly false, your rush to a hasty conclusion is merely a beating of the air and is not even justified by your "hackneyed" style.

H. A. CRAIG.
Superintendent of Fairs and Farmer's Institutes, Edmonton, Alta.

[Well, when we are misinformed we like to be set right; though from experience we know how easily a speaker may be misunderstood, especially when speaking upon horses.—Ed.]

STOCK

(Contributions invited. Discussions welcomed.)

Live Stock Education by Rote.

In his introduction to the fourth edition of his magnificent work on the "Farm Live Stock of Great Britain," the author, Prof. Robert Wallace, of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Economy in the University of Edinburgh, makes some wholesome observations on the subject of education. It is quite in accord with the view of this question lately set forth in these columns, and is bound to commend itself to the thoughtful public.

"One of the weak points in the British system of education," says Prof. Wallace, "so far as agricultural laborers and the small working-farmer classes are concerned, is that no adequate pro-

vision is made for their learning in their youth (the time when all the deepest and most lasting impressions are formed) the business they intend to follow. Agriculture, more particularly in the live stock branch, is not like an ordinary trade or profession, which admits of hard-and-fast rules being laid down, and of being learnt in so many years, even after a man reaches maturity. Its principles, whether they be acquired by the farmer or by the laborer, have to be taken in little by little, through a long period of time, which must embrace a considerable proportion of his boyish days. The knowledge must come, as it were, instinctively; it cannot be learnt by rote. It would indeed be wrong to deny the obligation to give every working man in the kingdom a good plain education. Putting aside all considerations of sentiment towards our fellow men, and the necessity of having everyone educated who is to have a voice in the government of the country, there is an undoubted advantage in having work performed by the aid of that intelligence which accompanies education. But what calls loudly for protest is the virtual prohibition of the learning by boys, at the only time when they can do so perfectly, of the one branch of their business by which they themselves will live and in time rear families. The present system is much too one-sided. It is the extreme into which we have fallen, after a long period of deficiency in the branch which now receives too much attention. Youth is entirely spent upon book-learning; interest and inclinations which must develop are led into channels far away from the employments of adult life; work, when it has to be done, is performed as a drudgery and with a heavy heart; the frame is not trained, while it is being built up by Nature, to dexterity and efficiency, nor yet is it strengthened and enlarged by that practice which always precedes efficiency. Why should not our educational system provide for the training of our laboring classes in both its branches, manual and mental, when this would conduce so much to their future happiness and the public good? In saying this, it is fully realized that the only possible places where a sound, practical training, such as schoolboys should have, are ordinary farms managed on commercial principles. Every facility ought to be given by school authorities to boys to avail themselves of the opportunity of taking part in the regular work of busy seasons, under conditions which provide work of a natural and useful kind, of which they are able to recognize the practical value."

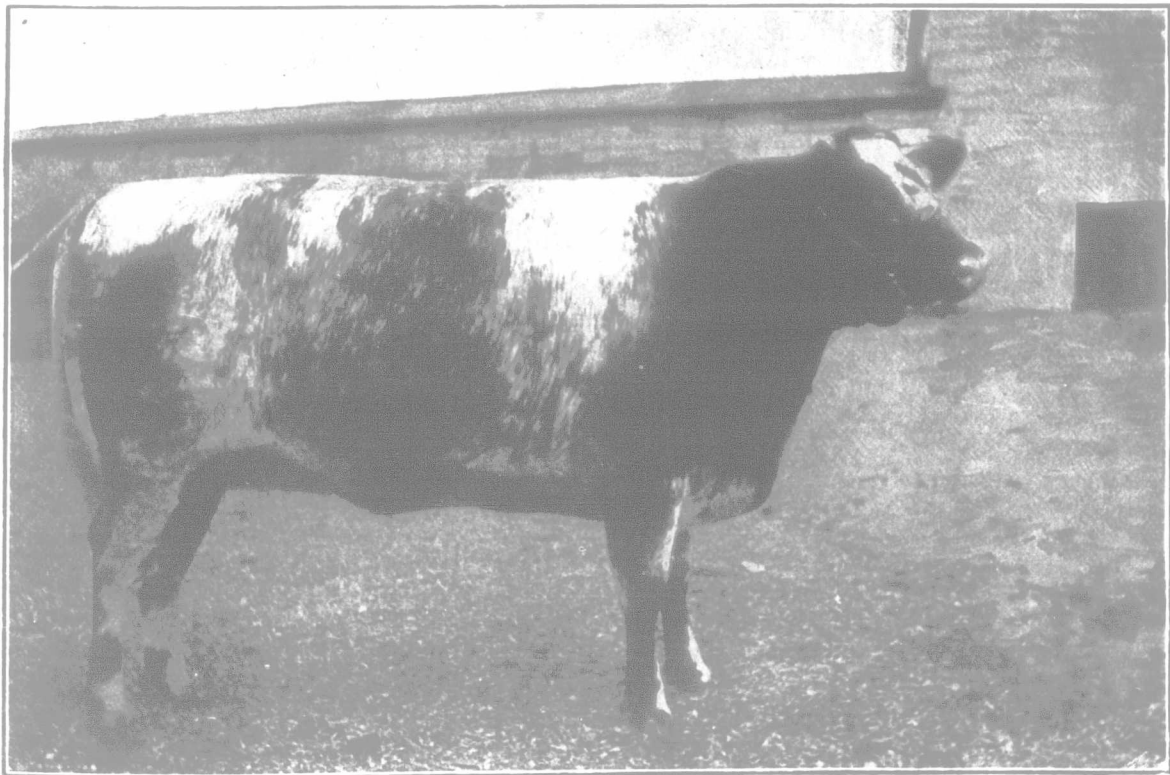
Effect of Cattle Embargo in Argentina.

Mr. Herbert Gibson, of Buenos Ayres, in a paper read at the International Sheep Breeders' Conference at Lincoln, England, the week of the Royal Show, said:

"The fact that the British ports remained closed to Argentine live stock, has been of positive benefit both to the sheep and cattle industries. The disappearance of the live-stock exporter created for a time a drop in the values of wethers and steers; and the profits obtained by the freezing industry, left with only local consumption as a competitor, encouraged those engaged in the industry to increase their plant and led to the construction of new freezing works. The freezing establishments of the Argentine are now capable of handling over 200,000 tons of meat per annum. The stimulus given to the trade has created competition, the quality of the carcass has improved and commanded a better price in the consuming markets, and breeders whose record local prices in the palmiest days of the live stock export trade were 15s. for sheep and £8 for steers, now obtain up to 20s. for the former and up to £10 for the latter. Apart from the fact that Argentine stock-raisers had not lost but benefited by the closure of British ports, the country at large had gained through the capital invested in the building of plant for the freezing establishments. The labor employed in the works and the by-products and offal which remained at the Argentine end were elaborated for export."

Proportions of the Sexes in the Litters of Pigs.

In response to requests, the Animal Husbandry Office of the Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has recently collected information regarding the relative proportions of the two sexes of pigs at birth, with quite interesting results. This information is not to be obtained from the herdbooks, for the reason that, while the total number of pigs farrowed is usually given, the number of each sex is given only for the pigs raised.



DOROTHEA 2ND.
Two-year-old Shorthorn heifer, winner of first in her class and Senior and Grand Champion female at the Winnipeg Exhibition. Owned and exhibited by C. E. Clark, St. Cloud, Minn.