

LIVE STOCK.

OUR SCOTTISH LETTER.

Writing on the 24th of April, one of necessity begins by referring to our unwonted experience of a blizzard at this advanced day of spring. We have often a few snow showers in April, but today and yesterday, all over Great Britain and Ireland, a perfect blizzard of north-east wind and snow has been raging. The results may be disastrous for flockmasters. Low-ground lambing finished some weeks ago, and hill lambing is just beginning. The results among low-ground ewes have been quite satisfactory, and the hope was general that the results among hill ewes would have been equally so. But lambs entering the world in such weather as this stand a poor chance of survival, and those which have already arrived will require careful attention. It is said that no such April blizzard has been known since 1879. That was the worst season for British farmers on record, and we can only hope that our present experiences are not a harbinger of similar experiences in the approaching season. If it should be so, the farmers of this country would have reason, like the Eastern patriarch, to curse their day. As it is, the outlook for flockmasters is not too promising. The slump in wool has come, and skins have fallen to a lower level than they had reached for the past half a dozen years. Mutton is selling well, and sheep would, under normal conditions, have been leaving feeders quite a good return for their outlay. The poor price resulting from the skins throws the balance on the other side, and, even were the weather conditions favorable for lambing, the issue of 1908 for flockmasters would not be too promising.

For two days of this week I was in that distressful country, Ireland. The Spring Show was being held at Ball's Bridge, where there was a fine display of Shorthorn, Aberdeen-Angus, Hereford, Jersey, Kerry and Dexter cattle. Horses, chiefly of the Clydesdale persuasion, were also in evidence, and one or two Hackneys were forward. A notable breeder of Hackneys in Ireland is Lord Ashtown, against whom the fiat of the United Irish League has gone forth. His Lordship was at the show, along with his wife and boys, but was being protected all the time by a detective, whom those in the know had little difficulty in picking out of the crowd, although ordinary on-lookers would never have imagined he was anything but one of themselves. It was a plucky way of enjoying the show, but one would rather not have been in Lord Ashtown's shoes. The show was this year a strictly Irish event. On account of the foot-and-mouth disease in Edinburgh in February, the Irish Department of Agriculture closed all the ports in Ireland against British cattle, and the embargo still remains in force. In the past, Scots and English breeders have carried away the leading honors of the show, but this year the Irishmen had it all to themselves. A Scots-bred bull was, however, champion of the yard. He was bred by Mr. Watson, (Auchronie), Brucelands, Elgin. He is named Scottish Boy, and is owned by Mr. B. Barton, Straffan, who breeds very good Shorthorn cattle. The best of the yearlings were bred and owned by the Earl of Caledon, Co. Tyrone, and were also got by an Auchronie bull named Scottish Captain. Two very fine roan bulls were placed first and second in the class of two-year-olds. They were bred by Mr. Toler Aylward, Shankhill, and were sold by public auction on the second day of the show for 230 gs. apiece to Mr. Dan. MacLennan for exportation to Buenos Ayres. They were exceptionally good specimens for that trade. The auction sales on the second day were a new departure at the Royal Dublin Show, but they are likely to be continued. Trade, although not brisk, was quite steady, and both Shorthorns and Aberdeen-Angus cattle sold for all they were worth. The outstanding fact about Irish cattle is the extraordinary improvement that has marked the past sixteen or twenty years. Previous to that time, the Booth cult was supreme in Shorthorn trade in Ireland. A Cruickshank bull was anathema. Now Scots judges reign, and bulls of Scots breeding are in favor. This week the judges were all Scots but one, and he breeds Scots Shorthorns in England. Two Aberdeenshire breeders also judged the "Blacks," which also showed great improvement. Black bulls are in high favor for crossing purposes in Ireland, where a black calf is just as popular as it is in Scotland. I ought to mention that there has been no outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Ireland for twenty-five years. The whole policy of successive Government departments has been to keep disease out of Ireland when it is out. This they can do, seeing that they have control of the ports. The cattle trade is the very life and soul of Irish agriculture. As the country has no manufacturing worth speaking about, and agriculture is its sheet-anchor, it would obviously be madness to risk outbreaks of disease. Should such a thing unhappily take place in Ireland, the results would simply be ruinous to the whole of the country. An Irish politician, be-

cause agriculture is the mainstay of his country, is and must be a protectionist. He dare not take risks in respect of the importation of disease; and, as agriculture is the backbone of industry, what affects it determines the Irish politician's action. He is an out-and-out believer in the old saying, "Keep yer ain fish-guts for your ain sea-maws." Being freely translated, this meaneth, "Man, mind thyself." It is not a half-bad policy. In Great Britain, where other trades and industries have the upper hand, it is not so easy to try the policy. The English wheat-growing farmer is a Protectionist, but the Scots dairy farmer is not. He wants to buy so much more than he can produce that protective tariffs would in no wise benefit him.

Scotland has a big job on hand just now in connection with the regulation of her dairy supply. Legislation is threatened which may considerably handicap the farmer in the production of milk. There are proposals to deal drastically with the cow which is found to have a tuberculous udder. An army of inspectors is to be let loose on the country, with power to inspect byres at any time, and condemn cows right and left should the inspector find anything suspicious about them. Of course, provision is made for payment of compensation, but, as a matter of fact, no amount of compensation can ever make up for the loss of a man's trade. Very drastic powers are conferred with respect to the notification of disease among those employed about dairies. To my mind, this is much more necessary and clamant than the other. Few cases can be cited in which disease is clearly traced to a diseased cow, but the number of cases is legion in which disease can be

or less of a mystery. There are few things about which less is really known in agriculture, and how to prevent its spread is quite beyond the power of existing science.

The Royal Agricultural Society is once more firmly established. It is doing splendid work. In the recent issue of its Journal for 1908 there is a most interesting report by the judges on the Lincolnshire prize farms of 1907. The first prize, of £60, was awarded to Mr. John Evens, Burton, Lincoln, and never was prize more worthily bestowed. Mr. Evens farms 930 acres, of which 620 are arable and 310 are in grass. On this farm is carried a stock of 30 horses, 901 sheep, 192 cattle, and 11 pigs. The main features of the economy of this farm are dairying and sheep-raising. Mr. Evens has a celebrated herd of Lincoln Red cattle. The notable thing about them is that, beginning to keep milk records in 1885, he has, through the information gained from them morning and evening, during these twenty-three years, transformed a beef-producing herd into one of the best herds of dairy cattle in England. How many men can produce such a record from labors so continuously carried on. Mr. Evens is able to produce these milk records, morning and evening, for every day since he commenced taking the record, in 1885. This is the right way to go to work in a matter of the kind. Records based on calculated totals and averages are better than none, but they are not in any real and absolute sense records at all. Mr. Evens feeds liberally. His cake bill for the year amounts to £1,600. By such liberal feeding, he keeps the farm in good heart.

Our show season has opened in earnest. The Kilmarnock event took place a week ago, and next week we have Ayr, with Glasgow in the following week. The Kilmarnock show was in every way worthy. Clydesdales, Ayrshires and Hackneys were the best features. The Clydesdale champion was a phenomenal yearling colt, bred by Mr. John Cocker, Hill o' Pitty, Fyvie, Aberdeenshire, and got by the champion Baron's Pride. He is owned by Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, Kirkcudbright, and is on all hands acknowledged to be one of the finest specimens of the breed seen for many a day. The champion female was the first-prize two-year-old filly, Sarcelle, got by the celebrated Everlasting 11331, and owned by Mr. H. B. Marshall, R a c h a n, Broughton. Like the colt, she was bred in Aberdeenshire, her breeder being Mr. Anderson, Com-

istly, Huntley. Curiously enough, the dams of both these champions were got by the celebrated Prince Thomas 10262. The family prize for Clydesdale yearlings was won by Mr. George Alston's Revelanta, a son of Baron's Pride, and a Cawdor Cup winner. Everlasting is also a son of the same horse, so that the recent show was another Baron's Pride victory.

"SCOTLAND YET."

REPLY TO HON. JOHN DRYDEN.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It was, no doubt, with interest that we read the letter in your issue of April 23rd, from the pen of Hon. John Dryden. Permit one of the younger men, and, I think, the first one to advocate in your columns the transferring of the Winter Fair from Guelph to the then Toronto Junction, to answer Mr. Dryden. If we refer to the letter mentioned, I think we can prove the necessity of moving this important Fair with Mr. Dryden's own arguments. I think, too, that he was uninformed as to the fundamental reasons underlying the agitation to move the Fair. I know that I am treading on dangerous ground when answering Mr. Dryden—dangerous in that, as a mother defends her offspring, so Mr. Dryden will defend what was, when he was Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, one of the most successful foster-children of the Government. But in the interests of live stock, one should be willing to



A Hunter with Hackney Sire and Thoroughbred Dam.