

Breeding Counts in the Sale-Ring.

On May 1, J. J. Merner, M.P., of Zurich, held a dispersion sale of 70 head of Shorthorns. It was a choice offering, as it included such families as Rosemary, Miss Ramsden, Butterfly, Duchess of Gloster, Crimson Flower, etc. Many of the females had calves at foot, and others were bred to such sires as Meadow Signet and Village Marquis, son of Gainford Marquis. While the prices throughout were fairly good, there were a number of real bargains when the breeding and individuality of the animals were considered. It was an ideal day for a sale and naturally there was a good attendance. The stock was brought out in high fit. Village Marquis, the young herd sire, topped the sale at \$800. He went to the bid of S. M. Bird, of Elmira. The average for the 49 females disposed of was \$314.50. Vesey Choice Brand was the highest priced female. She was purchased by J. Langstaff, of Tupperville, for a consideration of \$625. J. Miller, of Claremont, paid \$600 for Crimson Rose. Thirteen of the females brought \$400 and over. Following is a list of the animals sold, together with the names and addresses of the purchasers:

Females.

Winsome Corelli, H. P. File, Dashwood	\$200
Bonnie Signet, J. McKinley, Zurich	250
Vesey Choice Brand, J. Langstaff, Tupperville	625
Roan Signet, G. Hern, Seaforth	195
Lexith Gem, H. Heiser, Comber	275
Gladys May 2nd, E. Stoskopf, Zurich	150
Vesey Choice Signet, D. Johnston, Varna	400
Vesey Choice Signet 2nd, H. O. Bragg, St. Mary's	250
Red Pearllette Butterfly 7th, R. Allan, Zurich	300
Carolina 2nd, C. Dunkin, Varna	310
Belle, F. Coleman, Zurich	375
Roan Girl, G. A. Attridge, Muirkirk	250
Broadhook's Rose, H. Bragg, St. Mary's	310
Auburn Maid, G. Coleman, Zurich	245
Lily, with calf, W. Armstrong, Varna	375
Constance May, J. Luker, Centralia	310
Lady White, J. Gill, Grand Bend	310
Bonnie Gladys, J. Turner, Zurich	275
Collynie Jane, J. Stephen, Bornholm	300
Lady Lavender, J. Ortwein, Zurich	225
Jeet 7th and calf, D. S. Litt, Mitchell	265
Princess of Blyth, G. Nairn, St. Mary's	230
Princess Royal, Wm. McAllister, Auburn	225
Miss Lavender, E. J. Heiser, Comber	125
Corelli Bandsman, J. T. Gibson, Denfield	425
Miss Corday, J. Langstaff	475
Corelli 4th, F. W. Scott, Highgate	500
Rosalie 3rd, Jas. Hay, Kippen	150
Miss Ramsden 144th, D. Brien, Ridgetown	475
Corelli 3rd, D. Johnson	475
Collynie Rose, J. Barr, Blyth	400
Rosemary 122nd, J. T. Gibson	355
Silver Creek Belle, J. Eckstein, Zurich	310
Moss Rose, J. P. Ran, Zurich	235
Vacuna's Princess 8th, F. W. Scott, Seaforth	325
Nonpareil Belle, W. Dougall, Hensall	165
King's Lily, H. McMillan, Kippen	350
Crimson Rose, J. Miller, Claremont	600
Duchess of Gloster H. 2nd, Oestreicher Bros.	500
Crediton	260
Red Duchess of Gloster 4th, A. J. Howden, Columbus	200
Jilt's Delight, L. Luker, Hensall	225
Jilt's Maid, D. S. Litt	175
Princess Victoria, D. McKay, Goderich	560
Vesey Viola, R. D. Hunter, Exeter	450
Corelli Beauty, Oestreicher Bros.	225
Red Blossom, Ed. Boyce, Brucefield	210
Lily Royal, A. Hendrick, Dashwood	400
Princess Queen, J. Brewster, Seaforth	190
Rosalie 2nd, A. Wilsie, Clinton	

Males.

Knickerbocker King, D. Calhoun, Mitchell	165
Huron's Pride, L. Petty, Hensall	165
Huron Delight, M. Murdie, Seaforth	125
Regal Gem, A. Neil, Clinton	105

Nonpareil Duke, J. Barr, Blyth	\$190
Ramsden King, J. Hey Jr., Zurich	100
Village Marquis, S. M. Bird, Elmira	800
No. 61, D. Hang, Dashwood	100

THE FARM.

Our Scottish Letter.

Writing on April 13th, one's thoughts naturally turn to France and Flanders and the terrible doings there since the 21st of March. The address of Sir Douglas Haig to the men of the British forces in France and Flanders is calculated to awaken very serious thoughts. At such a time it is appalling to find wranglings in Parliament of the Parish-pump order—Ireland is ever with us—and it is hard for Britishers to bear the ordeal through which all classes have passed during these past three years and not resent the situation in Ireland. It is spoken of as the land of plenty. While we are on rations here, friends who have crossed to Ireland write and tell us of the abundance to be found there. Irish farmers are selling their cattle at as much as 104 shillings per live cwt. (112 lbs.), whereas the outside price which a British farmer can charge for his choicest heaves is 76 shillings per cwt. The astounding revelation has been made that the difference between the 76 shillings and the 104 shillings is being made good to the dealer by the Ministry of Food. The flower of our youth have been drafted into the army under the Military Service Act. In many cases their places have been taken by Irishmen of military age. A person must be a resident in this country six months before he comes under the Military Service Act. These gentlemen come over from Ireland, take the places of our men who are shedding their blood to save then as well as us, remain for five months or thereabouts, return to Ireland, then come back and begin another period of service which is quite independent of the other. Can anyone wonder that every Scotsman and every Englishman thinks it about time that this differentiation in favor of Ireland should take end. The new Man-Power Bill ropes in Ireland and there is a deal of noise. There will also be plenty of trouble, yet at all costs the Commonwealth must be saved.

Whatever our straits, Providence has in this spring of 1918 been to us wondrous kind. It would be hard to conceive of a greater contrast than that between season 1917 and season 1918. At this date last year the outlook was gloomy indeed. One of the worst blizzards in living memory was experienced in the week beginning April 15. The death rate on the hills was appalling and flock-masters experienced difficulties unknown at least since 1860, which was also a disastrous year. The winter of 1917-18 has been almost an ideal one. Plowing and other winter work is well advanced. We had a snow storm and period of hard frost in January; February was open and wet, but the latter half of March was especially favorable and farm work of all kinds was pressed forward with great success. The prospects for the season of 1918 in an agricultural sense are certainly bright, and a greatly extended area is being cultivated. The acreage under wheat, oats and potatoes in the United Kingdom this year will exceed anything ever known, and naturally farmers are anxious about the effect of the new Man-Power Bill upon their labor supply. If existing resources are left untouched for another month or six weeks the pressure of spring work will be over and a breathing space will be granted, during which it may be possible to adjust the labor problem with the military authorities.

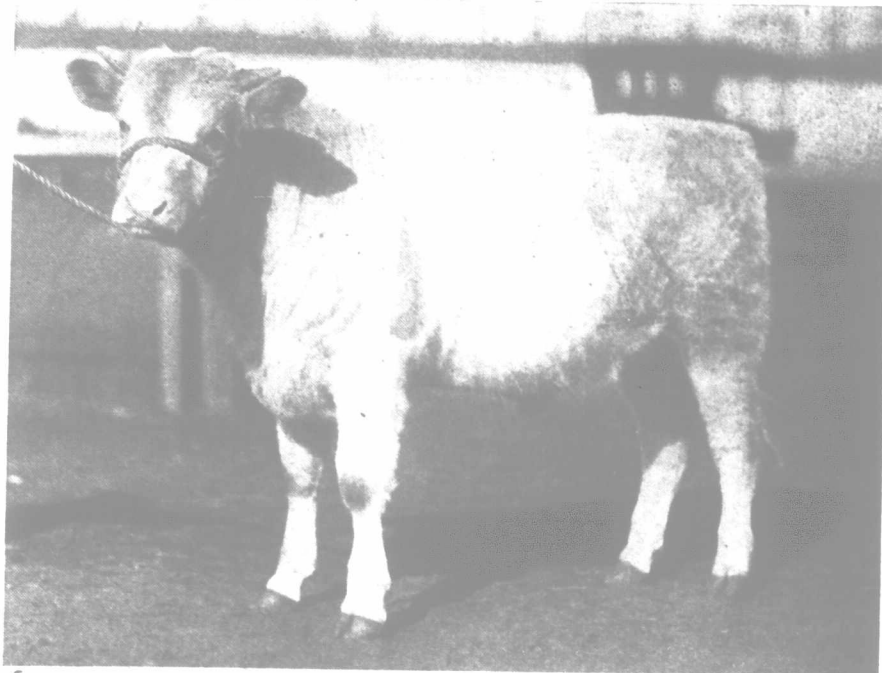
Food Control in many of its phases is greatly exercising producers. The Ministry of Food in this country seems to have an unwonted tenderness for middlemen. The milk distributor, during the two months of June and July, is to get as much per gallon for distributing milk as the farmer gets for producing it. No one will deny that the milk trade in any of its aspects is a laborious calling, yet there is something strangely incongruous in the idea that the distributor of milk should be allowed under control arrangements to take as much from the

consumer as the producer. The same tenderness for the middleman is shown in connection with potatoes. While there is still an abundance of potatoes of the 1917 crop in the country, and for months past farmers have had just cause for complaint that to some extent the guarantee of £6 per ton had not been made good to them, suddenly and without consultation with anyone the Ministry of Food have advanced the price by 10 shillings per ton as from April 15, with another advance of 10 shillings as from May 15, and yet another advance of 10 shillings to the man who has opened his pits or clamps, for the extraction of seed, and redressed and repited the remainder. The meaning of this is that the farmer who placed his potatoes upon the market and took £6 per ton or less—and thus fed his fellow-countrymen—is put into an inferior position as compared with the grower or dealer who, on the 15th of April or May holds quantities of potatoes. The suspicion is that the major portion of what remains of the 1917 crop is now in the hands of middlemen who stand to make an enormous profit. No farmer ever said that £6 per ton was not quite a good price, and why the Ministry of Food should now make a present of 10 shillings or 20 shillings, or 30 shillings per ton to a limited number of potato holders demands a deal of explanation. Questions on the subject have been asked but answers have not been given.

The war directly and indirectly has levied a heavy toll upon men prominent in agriculture. Our greatest soldier from the agricultural ranks, Colonel William Gemmill, D. S. O., of Guendykes, Maemerry, East Lothian, fell on the fifth day of the great battle which began on March 21. Colonel Gemmill up to his death led almost a charmed life. He was the last of a family of ten, all or nearly all of whom died of tuberculosis. As one said of him, according to all actuarial calculations he had no business to be alive; and yet his venerable mother who bore the ten survives him. It would have appeared to men that for him there was mapped out the honorable but uneventful life of an East Lothian farmer. When the South African war was at its height he was one of those who volunteered. He went out and saw plenty of adventures on the Veldt. In the end he was taken prisoner by the Boers and ever spoke well of their kindness. When peace was declared he came home, as a Sergeant, and joined the local Territorial force. He speedily rose to the rank of Major. When Armageddon broke out, in August 1914, he again responded to the call and went out as second in command with the Lothian Horse. His chief, the late Colonel Brook, was killed during one of the earlier battles while he and Major Gemmill (as he then was) were studying a map in a shell hole. Command was then taken by Gemmill, and his forces were re-constituted as the 8th Royal Scots. He was the idol of his men and was twice mentioned in despatches for conspicuous bravery, and received the D. S. O. The great battle began on March 21, and for four days Gemmill and his men fought a great rearguard action. On the fifth day he had reconstituted a new line of defence and seemed likely to hold his position, when a bullet from a sniper peremptorily closed the career of this gallant officer, who up to the moment of his death had amid all his fightings escaped without a scratch. Colonel Gemmill, although farming in East Lothian, was of Ayrshire descent. His father belonged to a family long resident in Fenwick parish and his mother is a native of West Kilbride parish. On his father's side he was full cousin to two very well-known Scottish farmers, Sir Matthew G. Wallace, one of our greatest and most successful potato growers, and Matthew G. Hamilton of Woolford, one of our most successful breeders of Black-face sheep. The common grandfather of all three was the late Matthew Gemmill, a well-known Ayrshire farmer. Another great soldier died recently in General Lord Blythswood. His fighting days were over before the present great war broke out. He won distinction in the South African war, as General Barrington Campbell. He was the third brother who in succession bore the title of Lord Blythswood, and all three of whom died within a decade. Yet another prominent Renfrewshire man, Sir Charles Bene Renshaw, Bart., recently passed away. He was a Sussex man by birth but came to Scotland between forty and fifty



A Winning Hereford Calf at Calgary Sale.



Willow Ridge Marquis 2nd, First Prize Shorthorn Calf at Calgary Sale.