

young gentleman, who has for several years been manager for the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, K. G., at Goodwood. Mr. McWilliam is the eldest son of the noted Shorthorn breeder, Mr. James McWilliam, Stonetown, Garbity, Fochabers, and his many friends congratulate both father and son on the success which the latter has achieved. He is to be succeeded at Goodwood by another man, Mr. James Moir, farm manager to Mr. Duff, of Drummin, and one of the ablest stockmen in the north.

The Galloways and Highlanders were too far out of their orbit at Aberdeen, but still they made quite a decent show. The championship for Galloways went to Mr. F. W. M. Gourlay, Moniaive, Thornhill, Dumfries. The Highlanders were, as a rule, uniformly represented, and champion honors went to Mr. Stewart, of Ansay, who has so often in the past done wonders for the breed.

Clydesdales were a notable display. It was distinctly Baron's Pride's day out. The prizewinners in every class but one were got by him. The first-prize stallions were Baron o' Buchlyvie, Gartly Pride, Baron Hopetown, and the unbeaten yearling colt of this year. These were all owned by Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery, Kirkcudbright, except the first, which is owned by Mr. Wm. Dunlop, Dunure Mains, Ayr. Mr. J. Ernest Kerr had first prizes in all classes of mares and fillies but one. In that, the brood mares, Mr. Stephen Mitchell, of Boquhan, Stirling, was first with the celebrated mare, Royal Ruby, which won the Cawdor cup in 1900. She is uncommonly fresh and clean of her legs. The other first-prize winners were Mr. Kerr's Chester Princess, last year's champion; the big three-year-old mare, Marilla, only once placed second in her life, at Stirling this year; the lovely two-year-old filly Nerissa, and the yearling filly Perelith, by Royal Favorite, out of the champion mare, Pyrene. The yearling colt and Nerissa were champions this year.

"SCOTLAND YET."

CHOICE OF A RAM.

Where the ewes have become very small and fine, as is the case in some sections, the breeder will do well to select a low-set, well-fleshed sire, of one of the medium-sized breeds, as better results will be obtained where the mating is not too violent. The ram should have masculinity—that bold, vigorous outlook that marks the good sire. He should have plenty of bone and be well fleshed, particularly over the shoulder, ribs and loin, and possess a good full leg of mutton. In a good carcass the leg of mutton cuts out as high as 34 per cent. of the whole. He should possess large heart girth, and a wide body on short legs, which gives that low-set, stocky appearance that marks the thrifty doer. The last, but by no means least important, is a good even covering of wool over the whole body, and particularly on the under parts, where ordinary grade ewes are so bare. It is well to examine the fleece closely. The best wool is found just back of the front legs on the side. The nearer the rest of the fleece comes to this standard the better. Be particular to examine the thighs—most low-grade sheep have in this region what looks more like hair than wool. Reject a sheep whose wool is full of dead fibers or of hairs. They reproduce like themselves. However, well-bred sheep are very unlikely to have the latter.

Before mating, both the rams and ewes should be conditioned. It pays to give them extra feed, not only because of the number of twins, but also because they will produce larger, stronger, thriftier lambs. Poor, miserable animals of any kind should not be bred if strong, healthy offspring are desired. Another harmful custom is to allow the ram to run with the sheep during the whole twenty-four hours if the flock is large. He should be shut up and well fed during the day, with green fodder and a ration of oats and bran, and let out with the ewes only during the night. One service is better than ten, besides it weakens the ram to let him needlessly waste his substance.

"NEMO."

ON GIVING REASONS IN THE JUDGING RING.

Theoretically it seems highly desirable for a judge to give reasons for his placings in live-stock rings. The feature is strongly educational. It increases interest in the judging work. Spectators see clearly why he has placed one individual above another. The explanations and the animals in the ring give them a better idea of type, of quality, and the other points considered in judging than they would gain from following for years the work of judges who did not give reasons. From the spectator's standpoint, and for increasing the educational value of exhibitions, no other feature probably could be of greater worth.

But, on the other hand, the position of the exhibitor has to be considered. However fair-minded a breeder or exhibitor may be, he dislikes to have the weaknesses of his animals pointed out to the public by an expert judge. It might be thought that an owner should thank a judge warmly for pointing such defects out; for showing wherein his stock could be improved, and profit from the criticism by setting to work at once to remedy the weak points. But in practice this does not always follow so harmoniously. The public too frequently, when an animal's defects are indicated, overrate the significance of the individual's worth, form an erroneous estimate of the individual's worth, and the owner of a horse or bull, the defects of which have been laid bare by an expert judge, suffers loss from no fault of his other than that he was willing

to put the animal up as part of an educational demonstration for the public.

These are two views of the question, but there is another one as well. Some of the best judges are a little diffident about offering public explanations of their placings, and some decline to accept the position on such terms. A loquacious judge is liable to find his reputation shattered some time. He gets into trouble sooner or later, and the public, which he has been trying to instruct in the intricacies of the judging art, is as ready to turn him down and out as it was to lower its estimate of the animals whose defects he laid bare. "A wise judge never gives his reasons," is a proverb of the bench, and while this advice is tendered rather in the interest of judicial reputation than of public enlightenment, the hint should not be lost upon the would-be obliging arbiter of the ring.

THE CAUSE OF HOG CHOLERA.

The occurrence of a case of hog cholera in York Co., Ont., north-east of Toronto, where some 800 hogs had to be killed, formed the subject of some speculation as to how the disease may have originated, a theory having been ventured by some that it might have been due to the presence of alkali soaps in the city garbage, which was fed to the animals on this particular farm. On this point "The Farmer's Advocate" took occasion to invite expert opinion, and we publish herewith the comments of Dr. Geo. Hilton, V. S., Acting Veterinary Director-General, Ottawa, who writes as follows:



In the Souris Valley, Western Manitoba.

"The cause of hog cholera is yet a much-disputed question, although authorities agree that it is evidently due to some form of micro-organism, owing to the fact that the pathological lesions found from the line of symptoms produced in this disease are characteristic. The great infectivity of this malady is also a strong point in favor of the micro-organism theory, and, while the germ has not been isolated, there is cause to believe that this will be accomplished in the near future. The ingestion of alkalies or irritants by swine, even though taken in sufficient quantities to cause death, does not produce the symptoms or lesions noted in hog cholera, and, further, hogs in close contact which have not partaken of such irritants do not become affected, while in hog cholera, unless immediate and stringent action is taken, the disease spreads with great rapidity among hogs under varied conditions."

The monthly bulletin of the Census and Statistics Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, reporting on live-stock conditions at the end of July, states that the condition has been uniformly lowered in every Province as a result of the dry weather, but animals of every class are reported to be in a healthy state.

A silo of corn is a great boon to the stockman.

THE FARM.

PRESERVATION OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FOREST.

The disastrous forest fire at the Crow's Nest Pass is a warning. We all realize it is too late to stop a raging forest fire, urged on by a stiff breeze, after it has once got beyond control; but we do not all realize that it is easier to prevent a forest fire than to put one out after it has started. If we did, we should not be constrained to gaze at fiery flames and dense clouds of smoke, and to listen to the crash of trees and to the destruction of one of our greatest factors of national wealth.

This week that I write miles of forest, several villages and towns, including Fernie, and scores of lives, have been wiped out of existence. No one seems to know where the fire started, and by whom it was started, but everyone knows that some criminally-reckless camper must have left his camp-fire smouldering; some fool-hearted huntsman must have carelessly dropped a match, or some Indian or foreigner must, through ignorance, have lighted and started this terrible holocaust. But we cannot remedy what has already been done, but must at once take double precautions that so terrible a disaster may never occur again.

FIRE PROTECTION.

We have in British Columbia an excellent act to preserve the forest from destruction by fire. Not only are private individuals restricted, in regard to starting fires, but, according to the Bush-fire Act, railway companies must conform to strict regulations, and must use all of the most improved and efficient smokestacks on their locomotives, in order to prevent and lessen the danger of fire from this source. The penalties are very severe, but of what use is a law of this kind unless properly enforced? The Government does not furnish sufficient fire protection. The fire rangers do not properly fulfil their duties. A man in a canoe, paddling along leisurely with a gun and a fishing rod, does not afford good fire protection. The time to stop fires and to check them is during the cool hours of the night, yet few fire rangers are then seen. If the Government, the railroads and the lumbermen would co-operate more than they have done in the past, a system of fire protection could be carried out that would reduce the loss from forest fires to a minimum. What better and cheaper fire insurance is there than a good system properly carried out? All dangerous places should be more thoroughly policed than they are. A system of telephone lines and good portage roads would greatly facilitate the fire-fighters; but, above all, we must educate the public, by continually bringing before their notice, by means of the press and public meetings, the serious results of carelessness, and the responsibility which they owe, individually, to their country, their Province, and their fellow men.

WHY SHOULD WE PROTECT THE FORESTS?

1st.—Because the forests are one of our greatest natural resources.

2nd.—Because they are already being depleted by the hand of man at an alarming rate.

3rd.—Because they regulate our streams, and prevent excessive floods in spring, and drouth in summer, thus giving an even-flowing stream for the development of electric power.

4th.—Because they prevent the erosion of slopes, and the occurrence of destructive landslides.

5th.—Because it is the true home of fish and animal, and why should they not be protected?

Monseigneur Laflamme, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Laval University, says:—

"We are rich in forest; from this point we are, perhaps, the richest people in the world, but our forestal resources are not inexhaustible. To say so would be to give evidence of bad faith and ignorance."

JAS. A. HAYES.

PRESERVATION OF POSTS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

On the question of cheap preservation of posts and poles, I read the United States Forest Service has worked out a practical plan of treating timbers. A bulletin has been issued giving descriptions of the necessary apparatus for treating posts and poles. The writer has not seen the bulletin, but knows of a simple and inexpensive treatment to preserve posts and the like. All that is necessary is to have all posts together, laid near a fair-sized fire in the open; have close at hand as much tar as will be needed. Take a post at a time, smear the end which goes into the ground well with tar, place the tarred end of the post on the fire for a short time, and let it burn a little; then take the post out of the fire and dab on more tar and lay aside to dry. Do all the same; it burns the tar into the post. A process similar to this is done by railway companies in England. Merely tarring without the fire gives lasting results if two coats are put on, and as tar is cheap, it is a preservative for the poor man's use. The writer covered a henhouse with cardboard, similar to bookbinders' pulpboard, then tarred it, and the rain is kept out all right.

H. FOSTER.

Middlesex Co., Ont.