

one we pass at very close quarters without seeing it, for they have the habit of "freezing", or remaining perfectly motionless, and in this way frequently escape observation.

Our Scottish Letter.

A DRY SUMMER.

Season 1913 will be memorable as one of the driest and most genial in the experience of this generation. Until yesterday, August 22nd, in the west of Scotland, we have had no rain since Monday, 21st July, a period of nearly five weeks. Now we have had about twenty-four hours almost constant rain, and vegetation of all kinds has been greatly freshened up. Last year reverse conditions obtained throughout almost the whole of August. The dry days in that month could almost be counted on the fingers of your hand. Then, not only did rain fall, but all over the country there were appalling floods, which undermined walls, blocked railroads, and ruined cereal and green crops alike. This year we have had no Lammas floods. Rain, when it has come, has fallen in gentle showers; and even although it was pretty wet yesterday, barometer declines to do anything reckless; its movements are cautious and not extreme. The consequence is that we are to have light crops. The root crops were beginning to exhibit signs of the sere and yellow leaf, and, although potatoes are sun-loving plants, they are not at all too bulky a crop. The condition of the pastures and the turnip crop has had a depressing effect on the lamb sales, which have just begun in earnest. The scarcity of lambs this season led everybody to anticipate high prices, but the scarcity of food has rather negated the advance, and prices so far are not so very much in advance of those paid a year ago, while, on account of shortage in numbers, the actual receipts overhead will be less to most flockmasters. Still, we are of opinion that overhead 1913 will be a good year for the Scottish farmer. His receipts will generally be less, but his working expenses will also be very much reduced. He had a short and very satisfactory hay time. The crop was got in ideal condition, and extra labor was only required for a very short time, and then not intermittently, as is often the case in hay harvest, but steadily, so that there was no broken time. Prices of cheese, beef and mutton have all been on the higher level, and both breeder and feeder of stock have been doing quite well. The drought has been unfortunate for graziers, and those in the habit of speculating in grass parks will find the balance on the wrong side of the ledger. Horses are not selling anything like as well as they did during the past two seasons. The shipments of pedigree Clydesdales are nearly three hundred head less at this date than they were at the same date last year. A somewhat disquieting feature to the Clydesdale man's way of thinking is the increased attention bestowed upon Percherons in Canada. Candidly we do not like it, and it would not trouble us so very much but for the consciousness that, to some extent, exporters have been to blame. They have been repeating the insane policy which operated so disastrously for the Clydesdale in the United States during the eighties. They have too often exported horses that were known failures here as stock-getters, with the very worst results to the breed in some quarters. A little more public spirit among exporters would greatly help things, a determination rather to sacrifice a present profit than to run an almost certain further loss, not to the individual only but to the whole trade. A large number of good horses will be sold in Scotland during September and October. About the middle of September (to be exact, on the 15th) a good sale will be held in Perth where quite a number of high-class animals from the well-known Harviestoun stud will be offered, and a month later at Lanark a choice selection of foals and young stock will be sold from the stud of Robert Park.

The doctors have been holding a great Congress in London, and once more they have framed a stern indictment against milk as a distributing agent for the disease of tuberculosis. The indictment was, perhaps, overdrawn, but there can be no doubt of the accumulating evidence against tuberculous milk as an agent in the dissemination of the disease among children of tender years. In a series of cases in which cervical tuberculosis was found in the neck glands of young children, the bovine tuberculosis bacillus was found. This is a stubborn fact, and, indeed, it is useless to attempt to minify its significance. The question which immediately concerns everybody is, how to find a remedy for this state of things? The advice in some quarters is, "Use only sterilized milk." But, mothers who have given heed to this advice have had the misfortune to discover that their children did not thrive on the diet. The reason is easily found. Sterilization, which means heating the milk and rapidly cooling it, certainly destroys all the most undesirable disease germs, but it also destroys other germs more needful in the building up of the

physical frame. It is impossible to kill all the bad germs and not kill most of the good germs at the same time. Wise men and wiser women, therefore, conclude that it is better to risk cervical tuberculosis in one child than to starve all the children. The thing most to be desired is not so much the killing of disease germs after they have found their way into milk, as the prevention of disease germs getting into milk. This is the aim of the Milk Bills which were before Parliament this year, but have both been withdrawn. They were designed to secure that milk should be produced from healthy cows, kept and milked under healthy conditions, and attended to and milked by healthy and cleanly men and women; that the milk should be distributed by clean hands and in clean dishes, while its reception should be equally guarded.

So far as many of the homes in the slums and working-class districts are concerned it is put forward that until the conditions under which milk is supplied and kept in their homes undergo improvement, the good effects of cleanly and wholesome production will be nullified. The vessels in which milk is often received are in such a state, and the conditions under which it is kept in the homes are such that all the labor bestowed on its cleanly production and distribution is completely thrown away. City authorities have much to do before they will find themselves in a position to denounce the conditions under which milk is produced. Still, the producer has his duty, and, as a rule, it is fairly well performed. Healthy cattle and cleanly surroundings have long been the ideal of the better class of Scottish dairy farmers. They have no easy lot. The hour of rising is three a. m., and the labor which follows before six a. m. is

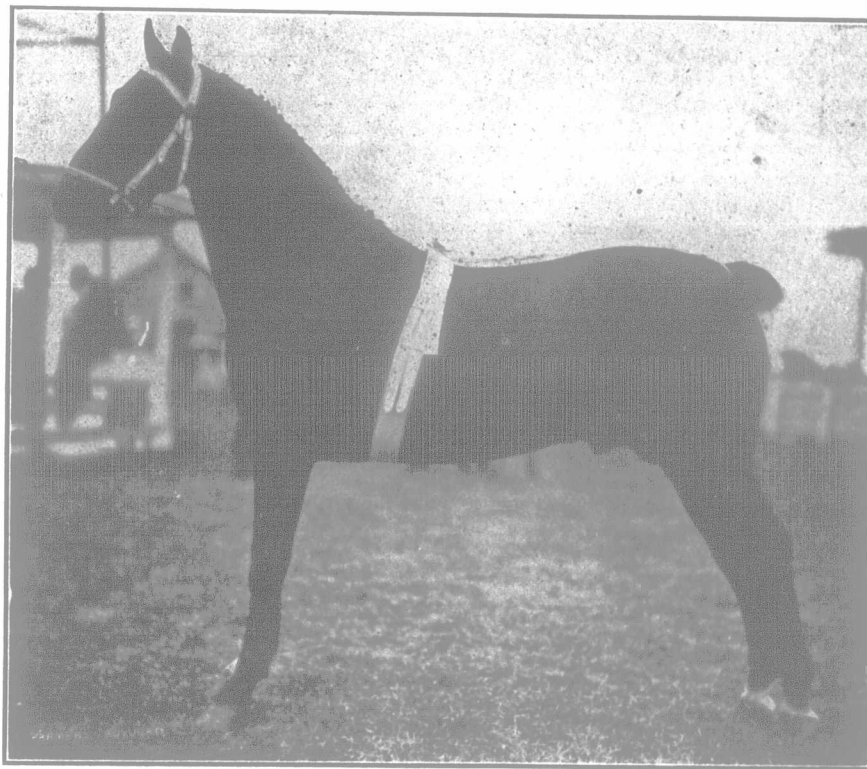
breakfast while their loads are being taken off in the city, and when they return to the farm after the second delivery, they load and have their wagons loaded over night, ready to start as soon as they and their horses are refreshed in the morning. Men who willingly work in this fashion deserve to be well treated in the matter of leisure, and no one grudges them a half holiday or even a whole holiday from time to time. What must be recognized is that hard and fast rules as to holidays or part holidays cannot be put into operation on a farm. For ourselves, we avow our belief that a ten-hour working day is the most wholesome for everybody during six days in the week, with complete cessation from servile work on the seventh. We believe that, as it is generally used, the Saturday half-holiday has been a curse instead of a blessing to working men in this country. They would be far healthier, lead a more useful and active life, and save far more money, with advantage to themselves and their families if they worked sixty hours in the week. Were this done they would relish the rest of the Sabbath, and be in far better shape for the resumption of duty on Monday, than many of men are under existing conditions.

RENTS REDUCED BY COURTS.

Much interest is being taken in the doings of the Land Court. This is a newly-constituted body, whose duties consist in adjusting the rents paid by tenants occupying farms of not more than fifty acres in extent, and paying not more than £50 in rent. In Aberdeenshire reductions equal to thirty-four per cent have been made on existing rents, and something like the same rates of reduction has been made in the Island of Arran. We are not acquainted with the conditions in Aberdeenshire, but in Arran it is notorious that the reductions have far exceeded the expectations of the tenants. One, known to us, who would have been quite content with a £5 reduction, got one of £13, and others generally have been in proportion. The Aberdeenshire cases would be hard. The small farmers there are an extremely hardy, well-doing race, almost impossible to surpass for sheer grit and ability. They have no other source of revenue than their crops or small farms, and when a reduction, such as is indicated, has been made on their rents, it may be taken for granted that they were rack-rented. These reductions must make a big difference in the revenues of the land owners. They cannot be ignorant of what is being done, and even although reductions have been sweeping, and unexpected in several cases, the general effect is to support the idea that there was urgent need for a Land Court. Our smaller tenant farmers are, to a large extent, the backbone of the agricultural community. They work hard, and endeavor to provide things honestly in the sight of all men. They know very well when things are prospering, and, although their gross drawings in a year will not exceed £100, they contrive to make a living out of their farms, and rear their children in habits of frugality and industry. They have always been regarded as paying far higher rents per acre than the large farmers, and the reductions made rather suggest that there was urgent need for the intervention of an outside authority.

SELLING ESTATES.

Estate owners are feeling the pinch, and many more are anticipating that the pinch will grow worse instead of better. They anticipate more sweeping reductions than have been yet, and are, therefore, offering their estates for sale in the open market. Quite a number of farmers have thus become owners of their farms. But it is doubtful whether, in every case, they who have done so have made a change for the better. A good deal of money has been borrowed, and it will not be more easy to pay interest on the borrowed money than rent to the landlord. Under the Scottish system of letting farms, the landlord erected all the buildings and contributed to the draining and fencing. Now, having bought his farm, the occupier will be compelled to execute every repair and improvement at his own cost, and erect buildings and fences as well as to drain his own land. Of course if he got his farm cheap enough this may be all right.



Lord Hermoine.

Champion Hackney stallion, Canadian National Exhibition, 1913.

heavy and taxing. Little scope is afforded for leisure, as nature calls for slumber at an early hour. Hence a present-day demand for higher prices for milk. Whether such higher prices can be secured remains to be seen. That milk will afford a higher price is evident from the fact that most of those who are engaged in its distribution make money, and some of them make it rapidly.

THE QUESTION OF HOURS.

Hours of labor among the farming community are being eagerly canvassed. The servants are calling out for a weekly half-holiday, such as prevails in other industries. There are, however, difficulties in granting such regular weekly half-holidays as other workmen have. Farming is, to a large extent, so dependent on weather conditions, that any hard and fast rule in a matter of this kind could hardly be observed. When stock have to be fed, it is impossible that men can be allowed off for half a day, as is the case in other industries. But on the part of the employees there is a disposition to be reasonable, and to recognize the facts of the case. The holiday is not asked in seed time or harvest, and it is generally agreed that when seasonably arranged, the increased leisure that is asked for can be obtained. There are no more willing workers than ploughmen and other farm employees. In the vicinity of Glasgow some farmers sell their hay direct to horse owners in the town. The arrangement with such men as to delivery is that there be two deliveries the day while the season is on. The men employed on the farms who drive the hay are astir by four a. m. They have had breakfast, and are on the road by five. They have one by one a second