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Our Scottish Letter.

In spite of the heading, I cannot pretend that there is much in this letter about Scotland. Here things are quiet. The season has so far been favorable, and seed-time work is well advanced. We have a big upheaval regarding the efforts of the Board of Agriculture to stamp out sheep scab. The disease is not widely prevalent, and in most of the flock-masters areas in Great Britain it is practically unknown. But wherever there are commons on which small lots of sheep owned by crofters run at will, of necessity there is difficulty in getting sheep dipped regularly. The order issued by the Board some weeks ago was to have come into force on 1st June, but such a noise was raised that its operation has been postponed until 1st July, and meantime those who have opposed the plan of the Board as set forth in the order, have offered, and the offer has been accepted, to show that the sheep of these small farmers or crofters can be effectively dipped, and have agreed to get it done. They have undertaken a heavy task, but great renown will accrue to them if success attends their efforts. The aim of the Government is to stamp out sheep scab. The remedy everybody knows to be compulsory dipping in a dip approved by the Board of Agriculture. Hitherto it has been supposed that such a thing as compulsory dipping was impossible. If the opponents of the order can prove the contrary, good may come out of present evil and trouble. Apart from compulsory dipping of all sheep, the Board demanded that sheep being moved out of the scheduled area should be proved to have been dipped immediately before removal, or dipped immediately on their arrival at their new destination. The scheduled area is the whole of Scotland north of the Forth, and the prohibition imposed and the restraints put upon the movement of sheep would have practically annihilated the sheep trade at a very important juncture; that is, at the time when trade was brisk.

Recently evidence has come under my notice of great advances in stock-breeding in Ireland. At the shows held at Dublin and Belfast, in April and May, very large classes of Shorthorns and Aberdeen-Angus

cattle appeared, showing the rapid extension of these breeds in the Emerald Isle. Of course, the presence of the Shorthorn there is an old story now, but the presence of the type of Shorthorn fancied by Canadians is of comparatively recent date. Indeed, the Cruickshank Shorthorn is not yet popular with a considerable section of breeders in Ireland. Long accustomed to the Booth type, they cannot understand any other, and a prejudice is being fostered on the ground that the cow of the Cruickshank type is not a steady milk producer. This theory is not confined to Ireland, and it is well that breeders of the popular type of Shorthorn should set their house in order, and understand what is wanted. Ireland must have milk, because Ireland must have butter as well as oxen. Hence the milking Shorthorn is of necessity the favorite there. But, with few exceptions, Aberdeen Shorthorns are just as good milkers as any others. There are one or two families in which, according to popular report, milking properties might be improved, but in the main there is not much ground for complaint. What is certain is that Shorthorns have greatly improved in Ireland within the past decade, and this improvement has made itself felt in the ordinary store cattle of the island, which by universal consent are very much better than they used to be. The chief awards at Belfast went to Mr. Miller, of Birkenhead, the most extensive exporter of Shorthorns to the Argentine. Some very fine cows and heifers were exhibited by the Countess of Caledon, and other Irish exhibitors. Mr. Matthew Marshall, Stranraer, was also a successful exhibitor at both Dublin and Belfast. Good success attended Shorthorn bulls bought at the Perth sales in spring.

CONDITIONS IN DENMARK AND THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.

Reflections such as these occur in connection with what I have lately seen in the Channel Islands, and what has been reported to us by a Commission of Scottish Agriculturists who visited Denmark a year ago. Alike in the Channel Islands and in Denmark, there prevails a condition of things quite the reverse of that seen in this country. Here we have, spreading broadly, land owned by comparatively few; in Denmark and the Channel Islands we have the land possessed by very many peasant proprietors. As regards the Channel

Islands, the condition of things is largely determined by the soil and climate. There is a climate in all the Islands and a soil in Jersey that we know nothing of here, while Denmark lies well to the north, so that her climate is very different, and her soil nothing to boast of. Yet in both places there is agricultural prosperity, while we have nothing at best but hard work and little pay, and at worst, hard work and no pay at all. Some have argued from this that the systems on which the land is held are wholly responsible. Give us those, say they, and all will be well. Unfortunately, we are not without small landowners in this country, and, speaking generally, they are about the most thrifty and least progressive farmers known here. The differences between this country and Denmark or the Channel Islands are many. Both of these owe their prosperity to Great Britain's open ports. In them agriculture is the primary industry, and all trade is subordinated to its success. The market for their produce is Great Britain, and they prosper because the fiscal policy of this country is not theirs. That is true only in part of Denmark, which has open ports for foodstuffs, otherwise she could never feed the enormous head of cattle carried. In Denmark the dairy cow reigns supreme. She controls and dominates the whole business fabric. "Nothing," say the Danes, in respect of education, "is too good for the children," and they might almost say the same of the cow. Here it is far otherwise. Agriculture is pressed into the background. Its votaries can affect few elections. The Parliament man treats the farmer and his complaints with enough regard to ensure his vote should he care to cast it, but he does not exert himself much on the farmer's account in the matter of legislation. Were it otherwise the farmer's lot would be improved and his interests better protected than they are.

"SCOTLAND YET."

Successful Graduates.

In this issue we present the portraits of fifteen of the class of twenty-nine men who (excepting two required to pass supplemental examinations in one subject each) recently received from the University of Toronto, the degree of B.S.A., Bachelor of Scientific Agriculture. The list of successful students appears in another column.

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This story is told of a country girl who lately took her first ride on a street railroad in a western city. The conductor as he passed her held out his hand for the fare, but she did not understand, so he said to her, "Your fare, miss," to which she replied with indignation, "Well, if I am fair, I don't want none of your impertinence."