

HORSES.

OUR SCOTTISH LETTER.

GLASGOW STALLION SHOW.

I ought to have written a week ago, giving some account of the Stallion Show held in Glasgow. This is the great opening event in the Clydesdale year. It is not now the thronged event that it used to be, but it is still an outstanding event in the Clydesdale calendar. It used to be a great hiring-fair, and, if all societies held over making their engagements until the Glasgow Stallion Show, in the beginning of February, it would see one of the briskest day's work in the agricultural calendar. So far, however, is this from being the case, that between eighty and ninety stallions were hired for service in 1908 before the beginning of February, and so keen is the competition for the best horses that the Stranraer and Rhins of Galloway Society, on the day preceding the Stallion Show, actually hired Mr. Marshall's Memento (13100) for the season of 1909. Imperialist (11376) was last week hired for 1909 by the Central Banffshire Association.

The Show itself, on February 5th, was an unqualified success so far as it went. The finals were a significant triumph for the Sir Everard family. The two great trophies of the breed, the Brydon 100-gs. Challenge Shield, and the Cawdor 50-gs. Challenge Cup, were won, respectively, by Mr. James Kilpatrick's Perfect Motion (13123) and Mr. Marshall's Memento (13100). The former was preferred to the latter in the class competition. Perfect Motion is by the noted Baron o' Buchlyvie (11263), which has three times been second at the H. & A. S. shows. He is a son of Baron's Pride, and a most successful breeding horse. Memento won the shield two years ago. He has thickened and developed immensely in the interval. He is a black horse, and was got by Baden Powell (10963), whose sire was Sir Everard, and his dam a daughter of Baron's Pride. Sir Everard was sire of Baron's Pride. These horses, Perfect Motion and Memento, are of different types. The former has a perfect top and perfect action. He is closely related to Mr. Bryce's Perpetual Motion. He has a great body, and from the crown of his head to his tail the outline is all one could desire. He has splendid feet, and his cart-horse type sends him far forward. His pasterns are rather short all round, and he is not so sweet and "flashy" in the quality of his "feather" as could be wished. Memento has great, solid, sound feet, and long, springy pasterns, with the gay, dashing motion which Clydesdale breeders love. He has big, flat bones and powerful forearms; indeed, for fore quarters he is simply invincible. His top is good, but not as good as that of Perfect Motion, and, in formation of hind legs, he comes short of the merits of that horse. His hocks are straight enough, and his thighs are rather open. Were his hind legs and quarters equal to his fore legs and head, neck, shoulders and withers, he could easily beat his competitor. As things are, the other has the advantage over him in these particulars. Third prize in the class went to a typical Clydesdale horse in Sir Spencer (13211), one of the truest Clydesdales shown, and, in respect of type, perhaps the best on the ground. He is owned by Mr. Taylor, Park Mains, Renfrew, and was got by Sir Hugo (10924), another son of Sir Everard which is leaving exceptionally good stock. If type alone should be considered, Sir Spencer was the best Clydesdale stallion exhibited. A handsome Hia-watha horse named Margrave (12240), bred by Mr. Robert McFarlane, Tornwich, who is now in Canada, and owned by Mr. John Pollock, Langside, Glasgow, was fourth. The judges who selected the premium horse for the Glasgow district preferred him before Sir Spencer.

In the three-year-old class, for a second year in succession, first prize went to a son of the famous Royal Chattan, Chattan Again, a thick, blocky horse, the winner this year. He is owned by Mr. W. S. Park, Hatton, Bishopton, and his dam was got by Prince of Erskine (9647), which had the Glasgow premium some years ago. He was got by the £3,000 horse, Prince of Albion (6178). Royal Chattan was got by Clan Chattan (10527), out of the dam of Baden Powell. Mr. Clark's big colt, Lothian Pride (13614), by the Top Gallant horse, Lord Lothian (5998), out of another Baron's Pride mare, was second, and Mr. Taylor's Sir Hugo horse, Sir Dighton (13760), the Dumbartonshire horse, was third. This is a great-moving premium horse, was third. This is a great-moving horse, and up to a big size. Some good judges regarded him as the best three-year-old shown. Fourth place was taken by Mr. Marshall's Musilino (14284), a very handsome, big colt, by the champion Marcellus (11110). He was fancied for the Glasgow premium by some, but the judges for that competition preferred Chattan Again. Musilino looks quite like growing into a future champion.

In the two-year-old class, Mr. Kilpatrick, the

owner of Perfect Motion, had first prize with his beautifully-balanced colt, St. Clair. He was second at the H. & A. S. show last year, and while his sire was Sir Humphrey (11942), his dam was yet another daughter of Baron's Pride. This is one of the best colts seen in the Glasgow Show. Had he been declared champion, no one would have quarrelled with the verdict. The second in the class was Sam Black, a thick, black colt by Baron o' Dee, a son of Baron's Pride, and the third was Scotland Yet, by Royal Favorite, out of the Cawdor Cup champion mare, Chester Princess, also by Baron's Pride. In a very fine class of yearling colts, Mr. George Alston, Loudounhill, Darvel, was first with Black Douglas, a lovely colt, by Revelanta (11876), a former Cawdor Cup winner, and a son of Baron's Pride.

Altogether, the Stallion Show of 1908 was a big triumph for the Sir Everard tribe.

"SCOTLAND YET."

PREPARING HORSES FOR SPRING WORK.

A great many farm horses have lived in partial or complete idleness since farm operations in the field ceased last fall, and, as the time when these horses will again be required to do a good day's work in the field is not far distant, it will be to the interest of their owners to see that they get some preparation for said work during the few weeks that remain before it has to be done. Some may say that the few months' idleness have given the horses all the preparation that is necessary, and that, after such a long rest, they should be in condition to go to work with renewed vigor. The case is just the opposite. The long rest, notwithstanding how well they may have been fed, nor how well they may look and feel, has unfitted them for work. During these months of partial inaction, the muscular system and the respiratory system have lost tone as the result of reaction,

and should be gradually increased. It will not be sufficient to allow them to run in a paddock or yard a few hours daily. It is necessary that they be given their exercise in harness, and it is advisable that the harness, especially the collars, be those in which they will be worked later on. The exercise will gradually give tone to both muscular and respiratory systems, and the friction of the collar and other parts of the harness will gradually harden and toughen the skin and underlying muscles, and lessen the danger of soreness when put to regular work. One of the greatest and most frequent troubles with farm horses, especially young horses, or those that are put to regular and heavy work in warm weather without due preparation, is sore shoulders. We say this is a very common trouble; at the same time, it is a condition that should seldom be seen, and, in most cases, is the fault of the teamster. When the collar fits properly, and reasonable care is taken to keep it clean, it should not cause sore shoulders. Close attention to the condition and fitting of the collar is necessary at all times. Because a collar fits well when work commences, is no reason why it should do so a few days or weeks later. A collar must fit properly, not only in depth, but in breadth. If too short or too narrow, it will pinch some place and cause trouble. If too long, it will almost surely cause soreness on or near the points of the shoulders, and, if too wide, it rolls more or less, and, of course, this increases friction and causes soreness; and if a horse with too wide a collar be worked to an implement with a tongue, the top of his neck will in all probability soon become sore. A collar should fit snugly at all points; at the same time, undue pressure at any point must be avoided. A horse in good flesh and unused to work may be put to work in a perfectly-fitting collar, but the muscles of the shoulder soon become less bulky. They are somewhat soft at first, but exercise and friction have a tendency to lessen the bulk of muscular elements, hence the shoulders become smaller in all directions, and, as a consequence, the collar is too large. When this occurs, there will be trouble if a fresh collar that will fit properly be not provided, or the old one made to fit by the use of a sweat-pad or refilling. When the collar fits properly, is kept clean, and removed when the horse is in the stable, even for a short time, and lifted forward to allow the shoulders to cool a little occasionally, when the horse is given a few minutes to stand, there should not be sore shoulders or sore necks; but when these precautions are not observed, trouble will most surely occur during warm weather. The time has certainly arrived when horses should be prepared for spring work, and the teamster who fits his team by careful work or exercise and intelligent feeding will reap the benefit during April and May, and, in fact, during the whole season, as a team that has gone wrong from want of proper preparation will not thoroughly recover for several months.



Shire Mare and Twin Foals of 1907.

Bred by Mr. A. Morris, Alsager, England.

and, in order that a horse may give good service at any kind of work, we all will admit that both of these systems must be strong and vigorous. A few months' rest and light feeding will probably do a horse good by giving comparative rest to the systems mentioned, if care be taken to gradually give them fresh tone; but if they are to be taken from said conditions and suddenly asked to perform the work of a horse, it will be found that a great mistake has been made somewhere. This fact is frequently noticed on a farm where one or more teams have been worked all winter and others have been idle until the spring work commences, when all available horse help is expected to work. The teams that have been used during the winter, while possibly not so fat nor fine-looking as the others, will do a fair day's work in the field with apparent ease, while the others soon tire, perspire very freely, breathe laboriously, and fail in flesh; their shoulders become swollen and raw, their muscles become sore, and it is practically impossible to get satisfactory service out of them. A little reasoning will convince the owner that this is what he might reasonably expect. Tissues and organs, whether external or internal, that have become soft and flabby as the result of inaction, cannot be suddenly brought back to a condition that will withstand with impunity the exertion necessary for a working horse. This condition of tone must be gradually acquired. This year, on account of the comparative scarcity and high price of food, many of the idle horses, that in ordinary years have been well fed during the idle season, have not received the food necessary to build up muscle and bone, and are less fitted for work than usual. Then, again, there are many young horses, as yet practically unhandled, that will be required, for the first time, to perform the functions of a horse in the harness in the fields. These, for the purposes under discussion, may be classed with horses that have had a winter's idleness. All horses of either class should now be given regular daily exercise, and the grain ration should be increased in proportion to the amount of exercise given or light work performed. The exer-

LIVE STOCK.

A SETBACK FOR THE BACON INDUSTRY.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been watching with a good deal of interest the various expressions of opinion from your numerous correspondents re conditions of pork industry. I am not well enough acquainted with the inside workings of the bacon trade to express an intelligent opinion in regard to the great slump in prices that has taken place. No doubt the stringency in the money market, and the consequent dullness of trade, has had something to do with it. It is very unfortunate, however, for all concerned in the bacon industry, that such a drop should have taken place just at the time when feed of all kinds is so high in price. The feeling is pretty general throughout the country that at times the producer has been taken advantage of in regard to prices, but supply and demand are what regulates the market in all commodities, and if the world can find its supply at present prices, we will have to comply or go out of the business. No doubt the matter will right itself in time, but, before the present year is out, the packers may find it difficult to find hogs enough to keep their factories running, and it is most regrettable that such a state of affairs has come about, as it is certainly going to give the hog industry a setback for some time to come in Ontario.

WM. AMOS.

Oxford Co., Ont.