

in his endeavors and by his predecessors. Any pedigree of almost any individual in the herd will show an attempt to breed in accordance with the known natural laws to make improvement in milking qualities, but these known laws are so meagre that one may readily confront forces indefinable.

Breeders while not altogether agreeing with some of Mr. Otis' ideas admire the staunch adherence of his individual conviction concerning the place of the dual-purpose and give credit for that which he and his predecessors have attained. In breeding for a dual-purpose animal, care must be taken not to sacrifice one quality in order to gain another.

### Our Scottish Letter

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

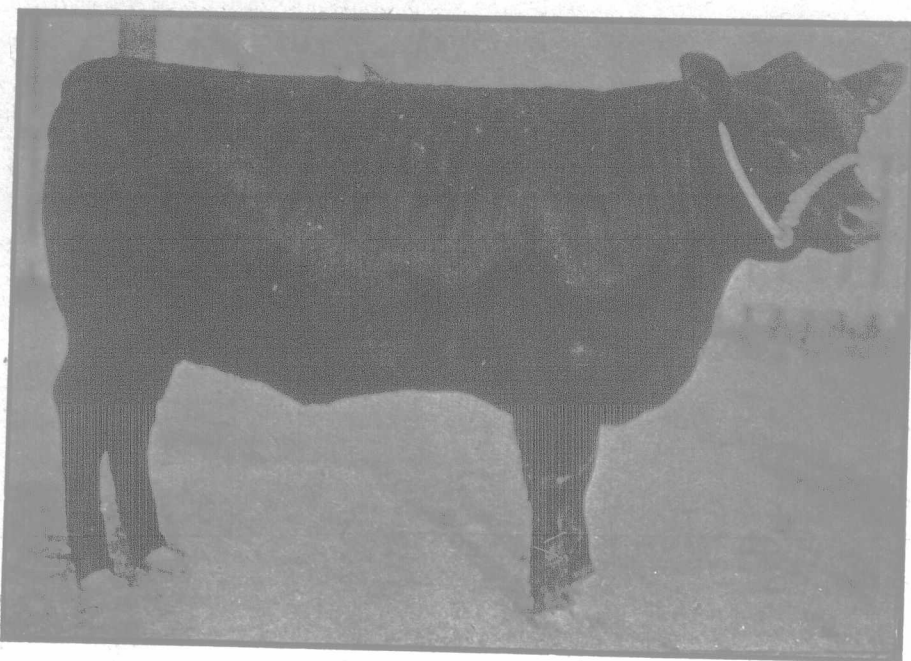
We have begun to organize British agriculture. At least we made a start this week in Glasgow. That vigorous individual, Mr. Hughes, from Australia, has wakened up the people of this country, and an effort is being made to get ready for an industrial conflict which everybody says is to take place after the War. For our own part the main thing has always seemed to us to be to finish the War. The end does not seem in sight, although the action of Roumania has certainly encouraged a buoyancy of spirit throughout the Entente and a corresponding depression among the Central Powers. It is, at any rate, difficult to see how Turkey can escape being crushed, and no one will be sorry should the crushing be of a complete and irretrievable character. Greece would seem to be moving in favor of co-operation with the Entente, and, in any case, the fate of Bulgaria would seem to be fixed. But what a heterogeneous crowd these Balkan nations or nationalities are! How they will ever weld together may baffle statesmanship. The big question will be, who is to get Constantinople? One rather trembles to think what may be when that question is raised at the conclusion of the War. All this however, is away from my text. We are organizing agriculture so that after the War this country may never again run the risks she has recently run of starvation. We have never been within sight of that because our Navy has kept the seas, and better still, has discovered means whereby the menace of the German submarine has been turned to the confusion of the Teuton. If, however, the German had been better equipped with submarines and less hampered by fear of compromising himself with neutrals, he might have put us into a fix, and given the people of these islands a taste of War, which, dreadful as the times are, they have so far escaped.

A great meeting was held in Glasgow this week to inaugurate a campaign for the setting of agriculture on a surer foundation than that on which it has rested during the past seventy years. When such questions are raised it is inevitable that there will be echoes of fiscal controversies. The effect of the Anti-Corn Law legislation of 1846 was far-reaching. In the opinion of many at the time it seemed to threaten destruction to Agriculture. But before many years had passed the Crimean War came, and Great Britain was then, as a nation, busily engaged in bolstering up the Turk. It was a costly business for us. This mess was hardly cleared up when the Indian Mutiny broke out, and only a few years after it had been settled the American War of Secession raged for four eventful years, 1861 to 1865. Then came the European conflicts which remodelled the map of Southern Europe, when Italy was born and Denmark was robbed of her fairest provinces by Prussia. No sooner had these calamities been in a sort of a way repaired and settlements of a kind achieved, than another dreadful War broke out—the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. It was short and sharp, and out of it the German Empire was born. Six years later there broke out the Russo-Turkish War, and in 1878 the Treaty of Berlin confirmed the fruits of that conflict by the creation of those Balkan kingdoms on which the eyes of Europe are at this moment again centered. While Europe and America were thus for about thirty years more or less cursed with the scourge of War and its baleful after effects, Great Britain was left comparatively free from such troubles. She reaped a large share of the profits which War brings to neutrals, and in the prosperity of these sixties and seventies her Agriculture shared. The anticipated effects of her fiscal policy of Free Imports were not experienced, and in spite of her open ports her Agriculture prospered greatly. But the eighties tried the premier industry in an unwonted degree, and while the country generally prospered its agriculture decayed. The nineties saw little improvement. By the opening of the new century the overseas competition had begun to spend itself. The virgin soils of the great American Continent had been denuded of their first fertility, and before the first decade of the twentieth century had expired there were indications that British Agriculture had passed its nadir and was gradually going upward. The cataclysm of August, 1914, has accelerated the upward movement, and at the present time, with the exception of dairy farming, all branches of agriculture are prosperous as they have not been for thirty years. The vastly enhanced cost of production in wages, imported foods, machinery, etc., has robbed the dairy farmer of any excess profits, and there is small danger of the Chancellor of the Exchequer making the nation rich by what he is likely to get out of the man who is a milk producer.

Now, however, a new phase of things has burst upon the view of the politician and statesman. He

has made the discovery, through the hard logic of War, that it is possible for national prosperity to be purchased at too high a price, when that price is a decadent Agriculture. True, it is a great matter that the people should have cheap food, but it is a greater matter that the land of the country should be kept under cultivation. Unless this be done people cannot live on the land. If people cannot live on the land the cities cannot be replenished with healthy citizens, and when War breaks out there is some risk of a famine in the island empire. The problem is how to maintain a prosperous agriculture, to grow the utmost possible from the soil, and thus to furnish the defenders of the country with food for man and beast. We are certainly up against it, and at all costs it is agreed that agricultural prosperity and national prosperity are synonyms.

Many questions connected with land holding call for adjustment. It is difficult for dwellers in a new country like Canada, where there is unlimited room for expansion, to appreciate the conditions of land tenure in a country like Great Britain. When settlers in the overseas dominions of Great Britain learn the power possessed by land owners in Great Britain they are amazed. In these sternly democratic Commonwealths and Dominions the interests of the people are paramount, and the will of the people brooks no impediment. Laws which do not make for the cultivation of the soil, which actually make it more profitable not to cultivate the soil, are simply swept away. In this country at the present time the Government is calling on farmers to produce more food, and yet is compelled to look on helplessly while thousands of sheep are being cleared off a good grazing because the proprietor insists on certain conditions



Pride of Larkin Farm 13th.

Junior and grand champion Aberdeen-Angus female at Toronto, and a winner at Ottawa. Owned by J. D. Larkin, Queenston.

being observed which are designed to preserve game. No flockmaster will take the farms with these restrictions, and, as a result we are to witness a desolation. The legislation of this country must do something to prevent such a misuse of land. Wherever the interests of sport and the interests of agriculture conflict, the interests of sport must be sacrificed. Generally, in the past, it has been the other way about. Agriculture has been subordinate to sport. We want to change all this. The principle must be recognized and acted on—that the farmer is the most important member of the community. His industry cannot be handicapped, and he must himself be thoroughly equipped for his life-work. The indications are that in spite of the dread perils, which we have just escaped, if we have escaped them, the reforms necessary to effect needed improvements in land legislation will have to be fought for inch by inch. A bill is at present before Parliament entitled the Acquisition of Land Bill. Its object is to prevent the vast expenditure which the nation has incurred in equipping land, being confiscated to the landowner at the conclusion of the War. The motive of the measure is wholly in the national interest, yet in its passage through the Houses of Parliament its provisions have been fought inch by inch—and any progress has been gained at the point of the bayonet. The omens are that the organization of Agriculture has not been entered upon a moment too soon, and those who have set the wheels in motion will require to work with a will, and exercise the wisdom of the serpent alongside the harmlessness of the dove.

Harvest has come much sooner than was anticipated, August proved a month of alternating sunshine and showers. Generally the weather was favorable and cereal crops benefited greatly. In some parts the weather was much too dry for the green crops, and on heavy land the lack of moisture was keenly felt. Still, withal, things have greatly improved, and there is now every prospect of a bountiful harvest. Potatoes will be a very disappointing crop. Roots of all kinds are in good bloom, and the Lammas floods, which came a month late, have greatly freshened the turnip break. These floods which came a week ago, have flattened the grain crops and made the work

for the self-binder extremely difficult. In some places the old-fashioned hook or scythe can alone make a decent job of cutting. Irish harvesters have been the unfailing source of autumn labor, but in the Lothians they have been plainly informed that their room will be more to be desired than their company. The feeling is that it is shameful to see able-bodied men coming to the places vacated by our own countrymen, either voluntarily or under the provisions of the Military Service Act.

Live stock interests of all kinds are in an extremely thriving way. British Holstein-Friesian cattle are increasingly in favor. The herd at Cradlehall, Inverness, was dispersed a few weeks ago, when 61 females were sold at an average price of £77 15s. 4d. Among these were 23 calves which made an average of £39 6s. 3d. apiece. At the Stirling market this week the highest price was made by a Holstein-Friesian bullock. The famous Shorthorn herd of the Right Honorable A. J. Balfour M. P., at Whittinghame, in East Lothian, was dispersed this week. Sixty-eight head, including a large number of calves made the fine average of £92 6s. 5d. The highest price was 370 guineas paid for a Goldie cow, and a heifer calf made 220 guineas. There was much buying on pedigree, and in some instances prices looked high. The lamb trade is in full swing, and the prices recorded for all breeds and crosses are a record. The good weather during the period of the sales undoubtedly helped trade. Lambs look very bedraggled on a pouring, wet day. In addition to that the weather has been such as has encouraged the improvement of the turnip crop, and this has reacted favorably on the demand for lambs, which, to a very large extent, are fed on turnips. At the Corston sale of Shropshire shearling rams, 41 head made an average of £11 6s. 1d. T. A. Buttar's flock is well known in Canada, and there is no better flock of Shropshires in Great Britain. The breed, however, is not extending in Scotland, both the Oxford Down and the Suffolk fairly outdistancing it in popular favor. The lamb from the Oxford ram and the half-bred ewe, that is a ewe got by a Border Leicester sire out of a Cheviot ewe, is much bigger than the lamb by the Shropshire sire out of the same kind of ewe. The Suffolk has fairly recovered ground in Scotland. As the sire of lean mutton this hornless blackfaced breed is unrivalled. They have the reputation of being somewhat slow feeders, and perhaps that may be true of the pure-bred animal, but when the Suffolk is mated with a Cheviot or half-bred ewe he fairly

scores in the good opinion of the butcher, to whom in the last resort, the appeal as to the value of breeds and crosses must be made. In the Clydesdale horse trade there is a great demand, and stallions are being hired ahead as far as the season of 1918. Whatever else may be depressed, the Clydesdale horse trade in the home market has been extremely brisk. There has been an unfortunately high death-rate among foals this year, joint-ill being a frequent cause.

SCOTLAND YET.

## THE FARM.

### A Little Trip.

BY PETER MCARTHUR.

This week I enjoyed a leisurely automobile trip that took me through two counties. As I was travelling with a man who has a due regard for the speed limits, and has no foolish notion about establishing records, I had a chance to see something of the country. The speedometer showed that we went at the rate of eighteen miles an hour, which was quite fast enough for a man who usually travels behind a horse that never shows signs of speed except when we are meeting an automobile. And even then her speed is not of the right kind, for she wants to go backwards or sideways instead of straight ahead. But, as I was saying, we travelled at a speed that enabled me to look about in comfort. The first thing that attracted my attention was the parched condition of the country. After the long drouth the fields were grey rather than green, and the pasture fields were of about the same color as the weather-beaten hay stacks. It was also noticeable that where fall wheat was sown only the lower parts of the fields were showing green. In many places the knolls and higher ground did not show a blade of growth. Most of the farmers in the district through which we passed had already threshed, but I didn't see one decent-sized straw stack. Of course, some of them may have put part of their straw back into the mows, but in other years I have usually seen