

Our Scottish Letter.

Time passes, and the weeks fly over our heads in such fashion as alarms the man who looks back in his reckoning. Last letter closed with some reference to the great cattle sales which had just taken place in the north. The most notable of all the sales, in some respects, was that held at Jackston. The herds at Jackston and Westertown are in the hands of two cousins of the same name—James Burno. They have been rapidly building up a first-class reputation, and making good averages at the spring bull sales. The Canadian buyers operated to some purpose at these sales, and they got right good cattle. The younger animals were all sold subject to the tuberculin test, and we believe they came through it all right. The result of the sales of both A.-A. and Shorthorn cattle is to place the A.-A. breed at the top, with the best average in a mixed sale. This figure is £92 3s. 4d., which stands to the credit of Ballindalloch. Three of the next best averages are at the credit of Shorthorns, Collynie leading with £84 17s. 3d., followed by Jackston with £71 17s., and Holker in Lancashire with £53 10s. 6d. Fifth place is filled by Auchorachan, with £52 5s. for blackskins, and Whiteside Alford is sixth with £43 16s. 9d. for Shorthorns. Not far off is Balliol College, with £43 13s. 2d. for the blacks, and Westertown presses him hard with £43 8s. 9d. for Shorthorns. The last of the averages over £40 also stands at the credit of Shorthorns, Newton taking the place with an average of £41 15s. 4d. It will thus be seen that, leaving out of account sales which were confined to bull calves, the two breeds run a close enough race in the sale ring. The leadership belongs to the blacks, but the best average positions go to the red, white and roan.

October is the dairy show month of the year. The leading cheese shows in Great Britain are held at Frome in Somerset, London, and Kilmarnock. The first is a West of England affair, pure and simple. It is the great market for cheese in that locality. The taste there differs greatly from the Scots taste. The public in the south demand a mild, meaty cheese, and they get it. To the ancient Scot, who loves his cheese with a 'bite' in it, the brand which looks more like curd than cheese is not beautiful. The Englishman, however, demands it, and will take no other. This year the Scot made an effort to wrest the laurels from England at the London Dairy Show, and to a certain extent he succeeded. The north was fairly well represented in the battle, but the victorious dairy was that of Mr. Alexander Cross, of Knockdon, in Ayrshire. Mr. Cross contrived to put several lots of cheese before the judges, possessing the qualities which command success in England, with a fair proportion of purely Scots characteristics. The judges were Mr. R. Hudson, Jr., Ludgate Hill, London, and Professor Drummond, of the West of Scotland College, Kilmarnock. Mr. Cross took first for his cheddars; Mr. W. Stevenson, Boghead, Mauchline, being second; Mr. James A. Whyte, Kirkmabreck, Stranraer, third; and Mr. Jno. Smith, Standingstone, Kirkcudbright, fourth. In the other cheddar class a Gloucester maker was first, but Scotsmen were second, third and reserve. The cheese thus decorated would hardly have been looked at in a Scots show. They were made for the London palate, and seem to have hit it. These things show that after all cheese points are pre-eminently matter of opinion. There can be no absolute standard of merit. Makers must aim at supplying the public taste. The best is what best achieves this end. Canadian cheese are in growing favor in this country, and merchants speak highly of this season's make. The cool summer, combined with the new arrangements made for preserving the cheese in transit, and the summer-curing methods in vogue, will, inevitably, lead to an increased demand for Canadian produce. Canada has, however, much leeway to make up in the matter of butter. Last week she was on the same plane as Ireland. Denmark was far ahead, with an enhanced value by fully 10s. per 112 lbs., and New Zealand, which is almost due, was quoted quite 6s. in advance of Canadian and Irish. Will it be the case with factories as with individuals, that whosoever you find good cheese you need not look for first-class butter?

The most recent event of mutual importance and interest to Canada and the mother country has been the conference in London on the Canadian cattle store question. It was organized by the Clyde Trust and Glasgow Town Council representatives, assisted by representatives from the Dundee and Aberdeen Harbour Boards. There were agricultural representatives present from the Eastern counties of England and the Midland and North-eastern counties of Scotland. The meeting could not be regarded as at all representative, as three-fourths of the farmers in Scotland were not represented at all, and perhaps nine-tenths of the farmers of England. So far as agricultural interests are concerned, in this agitation they count for almost nothing. The aim of the conference was to enlighten members of Parliament on the side of the question which interests the consumer. There is an obvious de-

termination to work the argument of dear beef for all there may be in it. I don't think there will be much, as the vast quantities of beef and mutton brought here in chilled chambers will always prevent any excessive advance in the price of meat.

If any change in the law takes place it is increasingly evident that it will not be through any action of the Board of Agriculture, and its President, Mr. Hanbury, has obviously made up his mind, and he gives me the impression of being a gentleman who, when that stage is reached, may as well be left alone. He was down in Edinburgh last week, and it seems evident that while he is not indisposed to admit Argentine cattle for slaughter at the port of debarkation, he is not in favor of proposing any amendment to the Act of 1896. In other words, he may, as he must statutorily, when satisfied that there is no disease in the Argentine, admit the cattle from that quarter to be slaughtered at once, but he cannot deal in this way with the importation of Canadian cattle as stores, because that question is settled by statute in the negative. The movers in this business mean to keep the agitation going. The M.P.'s who favor the views of the conference speak of bringing in a private member's bill. That, however, has a very poor chance of passing. The Government, I believe, recognize the chief difficulty in this matter to be in the composition of the present Parliament. There are 80 or 90 Irish members who would vote against any change in the law; and the English county members, except a few from Norfolk, and perhaps Essex and Lincoln, and about one-half of the members for Scotland, would follow suit. In these circumstances no minister in this country is likely to look seriously at the proposed amendment of the Act of 1896. "SCOTLAND YET."



KING OF THE CLYDES [2569] (10786).

First-prize and sweepstakes draft stallion at Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition, 1902.
PROPERTY OF HON. THOS. GREENWAY, CRYSTAL CITY, MAN. (SEE GOSSIP, PAGE 894.)

Kindness to Stock.

Of the various factors that go to determine success in the raising of live stock, whether it be the production of bone and muscle in the young, fat and flesh in the mature animal, or a large flow of milk in the dairy cow, none play a more important part than kindness. In all its branches, the animal organization is so constructed that when undue excitement or worry is caused, the energy thereby expended is lost to the economical functions of the body. Just as food is used in supplying the heat necessary to combat extremes of cold, so it is consumed to maintain nervous energy, and hence an animal must be contented before profitable returns can be expected by the feeder. This is borne out by practical experience and observation on every hand. It is only necessary to visit the well-ordered stables where the prizewinners at our exhibitions and fat-stock shows are reared and fitted to see the material benefits of good treatment.

When steers for winter feeding are first placed in the stalls, great caution should be exercised by all who are engaged in their care. Loud words should be avoided and patience exercised until they have become acquainted with their new surroundings. The man who must give expression to an evil temper by kicking or otherwise abusing the cattle, should promptly find an occupation elsewhere. Some good breeders even advocate closing the stables to all-comers after the morning work has been completed, and allowing the

stock to enjoy absolute contentment until feeding time again.

In the handling of dairy cows, similar abuses abound. Heifers are made useless as milk-producers by careless or impatient persons, who, during the first days of milking, find it convenient to use the stool as a corrector, instead of such a measure of kindness and forbearance as would in a short time create within the young milker a confidence in those responsible for her training. In breaking colts to harness, too, it is invariably the rough and unintelligent driver who makes the balky horse. He undertakes to make the youngster acquire in a day, lessons that should occupy weeks, and when progress is not made as expected, the lash is applied, and fear takes the place of confidence, with a spoiled horse as the result.

Animals soon learn the disposition of their caretaker; they are possessed of an instinct which enables them to determine the extent of his humanity. Most classes have also sufficient intellect to acknowledge any kindness which they may be given, and true stockmen are those only who love their stock and take an interest in their training, feeding and care.

Breeding the Sows.

As most of the sows in the country will be bred in December, in order to have their litters born in April, a little consideration at this time of the most convenient methods of carrying out the breeding operations will be seasonable. Where a boar is kept for service of sows in the neighborhood, and a considerable patronage is expected, it is a great convenience for loading and unloading to have a chute built at the end or side

of the building where the boar is kept. This can be cheaply built of posts and planks, and its floor should be about the height of a waggon bottom. By the use of a low hurdle of the required length, the sow may be guided into the pen, and from it to the chute. Time and trouble can be saved by the use of a breeding-box, in which the sow is placed during service. This is easily made, and is practically an ordinary pig crate about 4½ feet long, two feet wide and 2 ft. 9 inches high, with the top and the hind end left open. The length for small or large sows is regulated by having a second or sliding front, which is dropped between cleats on the sides. A bar is used across the hind end, about one foot from the bottom, to prevent the sow from backing out, and a platform made of four-inch scantling and inch boards,

placed behind the crate, with cross cleats to prevent slipping, is used for the boar to stand upon if needed. If a heavy boar is in use, his weight may be supported by having side wings on the inside of the box, on which his fore feet may rest. These may be so hinged that they may be turned down if not needed, or in getting the sow in or out of the crate. The breeding-box has been described and illustrated more than once in the "Advocate," and is a contrivance of so great convenience that no breeder can well afford to be without it.

The use of a short hurdle in the pen for guiding the sow into the crate is also a great convenience. As a rule one service is sufficient, and the sow should always be kept alone in a pen till her heat has passed off. In the case of a sow that has returned more than once, a second service near the end of her period of heat is advisable.

Amending the Embargo.

A cable despatch from England states that, as a result of the efforts of the Canadian Department of Agriculture to have the embargo removed, that the British Board of Agriculture may extend the ten days' limit for the slaughter of Canadian cattle to twenty days.

The duty of the hour: A prompt renewal of your subscription to the "FARMER'S ADVOCATE" for 1903. Discharge the duty, and you will sleep easy.