

## FALL FOALS.

The present and prospective demand for good horses, and the fact that a considerable proportion of the mares bred during the short season in which stallions are placed on a route fail to prove in foal, raises the question whether there would not be economy and advantage in breeding more mares to produce foals in the fall months. It has come to be generally acknowledged that fall calves can be more conveniently and advantageously raised than those born in the spring, and the custom of having the majority of calves come in the autumn has become familiar. When we consider the large number of mares bred to some stallions during the two or three months of the regular season, the fact that a large proportion of them return several times, and that an unreasonable number of services are in many cases required in a day, there is little wonder that so many blanks occur in the breeding list, so many mares failing to conceive. And for this reason it would appear to be desirable that the breeding season should be extended. It is generally conceded that the health of the mare and of the foal she carries is conserved by her being kept at work during the period of gestation. By breeding her for foaling in the fall, she could be worked through most of the year, and, being on pasture at night in summer, would receive ample exercise during the period when it is most required for the welfare of the foal. The foal, if born in October, November or December, would be old enough to wean before the mare was required for work on the land in spring, and the weanling youngster would be able to find for itself on pasture. This system would appear to work out well enough on paper, but the fact that it has not been generally adopted in practice by experienced horse-breeders may possibly be accounted for by good reasons, which it would be of interest to have published, though it has probably not been given sufficient trial to settle the question of its suitability to the conditions of this country. While it is probably true that mares generally come in heat more regularly in the spring and early summer than at other times, it is also true that many stallions are unreasonably overworked during the short season adopted, and that for some cause or other a lamentably large proportion of the foals born in the spring die young, and it would appear to be worth while to experiment to at least a limited extent in breeding for fall foals, especially in the case of mares which have failed to conceive in the summer season. Will breeders who have made the experiment give readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" the benefit of a record of their experience, whether favorable or otherwise, with the reasons why? And will others give their opinions upon the question for publication?

## PREMIUM PICTURE OF BARON'S PRIDE.

A splendid photo-engraving of the celebrated Clydesdale stallion, Baron's Pride, may be obtained by any present subscriber of "The Farmer's Advocate" who will send us the name of one new yearly subscriber, accompanied by \$1.50. The engraving is 7½ x 11 inches in size, and is printed with a soft tone, combined with much clearness of detail, on a card of finest coated stock. It is a beautiful picture to frame and hang in the library or sitting-room of any horseman's home. Copies may be purchased from "The Farmer's Advocate" at 50 cents each.

## LIVE STOCK.

## OUR SCOTTISH LETTER.

A month has nearly elapsed since I penned my last letter, and that month has been an unusually eventful one. We have had marvellous weather for one thing, and, taking a conjunct view of the whole situation, probably there never were better prospects for crops. In some seasons particular crops may have been better, and particular crops may have been worse, but crops all 'round have seldom promised better than they do this year. Wheat is a fine crop throughout the whole of the island. Oats are still better, and the latter half of July has given us ideal weather for bulking straw and filling the cars. Barley is a fine crop on good land, and hay of the second cut is very good, while the first cut is right enough, but deficient in clover.

Green Crops.—Potatoes promise very well. Turnips and Swedes, although in places "blanky," are, in the main, a satisfactory crop, which will pay well.

While crops are promising, stock, which is our sheet anchor, are on the down grade. Our export trade, as compared with that of the past four or five years, has been very limited in its range. Clydesdales have not gone off as was hoped for, not more than one-sixth were exported during the first half of 1908 that went out of the country in the same period of 1907. This has meant a great diminution in the money being circulated among breeders. The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in spring played havoc with our South American demand for Shorthorns, and even yet, although the scare is exhausted, there is little movement. At the same time there is no lack of spirit in

the home trade, which is moving splendidly. The hiring of Clydesdale stallions for 1909 has been unusually brisk during the past few weeks. The demand and the terms payable are quite remunerative, and the standard of merit in premium horses is higher than in former days. I recently overheard a conversation between gentlemen who do quite a big trade in buying and selling horses. They were agreed that unsound horses, in respect of such diseases as sidebones, ring-bones, stringhalt and "nerve" were much rarer than they used to be. This opinion will be endorsed by everyone who has handled Clydesdales during the past 25 years. The breed has undoubtedly improved in respect of general soundness.

With respect to Shorthorns, there does not appear to be any immediate prospect of a resumption of the South American demand. The market was overstocked with inferior bulls from this side, and, unfortunately, the crown was put upon it by the discovery that there had been ill-doings going on in connection with pedigrees. The thing was suspected long enough, and no one was surprised when the blow fell. The Council of the Shorthorn Society on this side was rather slow to move, and there was nothing particularly heroic about their procedure even when they did move. In the end, by a unanimous vote, the offending party was expelled from the Society. The fact of his expulsion was notified to the members of the Society, but no public announcement has been made. In your country, I imagine, those in authority would be less squeamish. They would have given public intimation of the expulsion without much ado. The Shetland Pony Society has also had trouble of a like nature. Its action has been subjected to review in the law courts, and, happily, they have supported what was done by the Society. That also concerned the expulsion of a member. The trade in Clydesdales to the United States twenty years ago was largely ruined through work of this kind, and it is ten thousand pities that in Scotland men should be found who believe so little in the old proverb that "Honesty is the best policy."



Tarrel Uxor (93622).

Shorthorn bull. Roan; calved 27th January, 1905. Property of Geo. Campbell, Harthill, Whitehouse, Aberdeenshire. Winner of the President's Medal as best Shorthorn of either sex, at the Highland Society's Show, 1908.

There is some movement among foreign fanciers of Aberdeen-Angus cattle. A number of representatives of the breed have been exported during the past few weeks, but in the main the volume of export trade for any of our cattle breeds is very limited.

## THE PRESENTATION TO MR. DUTHIE.

Shorthorn breeders have recently been honoring their king—Mr. William Duthie, Collynie, Tarves, Aberdeenshire. The presentation took the form of his portrait in oil, from the brush of the most eminent Scots artist of the day, Sir George Reid, R. S. A., who is himself an Aberdonian. Mr. Duthie is a man of untiring energy and zeal. He is never wearied, and as he himself phrases it, he is a bad sitter. Consequently, Sir George has represented him standing, and as if about to move off on some Shorthorn exhibition or other. The presentation was made in name of subscribers by His Excellency the Earl of Aberdeen, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. His Lordship is laird of Collynie, and also Lord Lieutenant of the County of Aberdeen. He, therefore, spoke in a very representative capacity when he eulogized the fame of Mr. Duthie as a breeder of Shorthorns, and his worth as a man. Mr. Duthie is, undoubtedly, a great man. He would have made his mark in any sphere. The country rejoices that he has chosen to make it in connection with cattle-breeding. Mr. Duthie is the true representative successor of Amos Cruickshank. He learned much from the grand old man of Aberdeen.

shire, and nothing done by him was lost on his young pupil. Mr. Duthie, in acknowledging the gift, referred in excellent terms to the work done by his predecessors, and expressed great satisfaction at the zeal and success of younger breeders at the present time. He gave sound advice as to the choice of a breeding bull. Unless an animal leaves a good general impression on one's mind it is better to leave him severely alone. This was Amos Cruickshank's favorite maxim. When he went to see a bull he never allowed himself to be carried away by the super-excellence of the animal in one particular. He aimed at uniformity, and unless the tout ensemble pleased him, the bull did not come to Sittytton. This explains the choice which the Quaker sometimes made. For example, in the case of Lancaster Comet, a neighbor sarcastically informed Mr. Cruickshank, when his eyes first rested on the bull, that he might have got a Highland bull nearer home, if that was what he was after! But Amos knew what he wanted. He knew as well as any the deficiencies of Lancaster Comet if one went to dissect the animal. But in spite of these things, the general impression made by the bull was right, and he was a wonder-worker at Sittytton. Mr. Duthie's hints will stand a deal of pondering. They have an application beyond Shorthorns.

## THE HIGHLAND SOCIETY'S SHOW.

Perhaps it is well here to say some things about the Highland Society's Show at Aberdeen, which closed its gates a week ago. It was, undoubtedly, a grand exhibition of British, and, in particular, of Scots, stock. In the cattle section there was, no doubt, nothing of surpassing individual excellence seen, except the champion Aberdeen-Angus, Mr. J. Ernest Kerr's Elect of Ballindalloch. It is admitted that many moons have waned since a representative of the blacks was seen having as many good points and as few deficiencies. He was, taken all in all, the best animal in the cattle section. The Aberdeen-Angus older bull was also bred at Ballindalloch. He was the Royal champion, Mr. Donald Macrae's Everlasting of Ballindalloch, and pre-eminently a breeder's bull. You can find fault with him in individual points if you are anxious to excel as a critic, but the general effect of viewing the bull is pleasing to a degree. He is a case in point, illustrating Mr. Duthie's theory. The outstanding feature of the female section of the Aberdeen-Angus breed was the success of the Ayrshire herd of Mr. James Kennedy, at Deonholm, in the "land o' Burns." The west-country climate has been thought rather moist for the blacks, but Mr. Kennedy's skillful management has surmounted this difficulty, and the herd scored a notable success at the Highland, taking first in all the female classes, and among the yearling bulls also. A home-bred bull, named Avana, has done exceptionally well as a sire, and the winning produce in all classes but one were got by him.

The Shorthorns at the Highland were much above average. The champion bull was Tarrel Uxor, which stood second at the Royal, bred by Mr. John Ross, now at Milleraig, Ainess. The sire of Tarrel Uxor was a great bull, named Ajax. So far as I know, Tarrel Uxor is the only real topper got by Ajax. The champion female was His Majesty's two-year-old heifer, Marjorie. The merits of this heifer are universally recognized. She is a noble specimen of the red, white and roan. By the way, Mr. William Tait, who succeeded his father, Mr. Henry Tait, as Queen's Manager at Windsor, has held office since 1882, and now asks to be retired. This is granted, and his phenomenally successful career terminates shortly. The success of the Royal herds at the great shows was undoubtedly due to Mr. William Tait's marvellous skill as a breeder. His father did very well buying up young cattle, and feeding the best of them for Smithfield. Mr. William Tait did the same thing for a few years, but some exhibitors began to grumble, and in the end Queen Victoria gave orders that henceforth the Royal herds should only be represented at these great shows by animals bred by Her Majesty. If Mr. Tait's critics supposed that this would banish the Royal herds from the winter shows they made a serious mistake. The greatness of Mr. William Tait as a breeder was only now realized. The former success of the Royal herds were simply not in it with the marvellous "hits" made with home-bred animals. Mr. Tait is to be succeeded by Mr. William McWilliam, an extremely able