

a halt. The daughters of our farmers must form strong useful hands by drawing the teat, rather than by daintily fingering the piano, which will only be a return to honorable ancient usage. More of the calves must be raised by hand, after the fashion of the Messrs. Smith, of Maple Lodge, and of Mr. John Gibson, late of Denfield, in which case the habit of giving milk for nine and ten months in the year would become established. The adoption of the principles that universally obtains amongst the breeders of dairy cattle would no doubt produce similar results with Short-horns, that is (1) persistent milking; (2) a most careful selection of good milking dams as breeders; and (3) using sires of good milking families.

Our correspondent stirs a subject a good deal deeper than the stream over which Cass's bridge is built, when he puts the question at the head of this paper, and we are glad that he has asked it, as, if the breeders of Shorthorns are to retain the prestige of their famous line for being large and long milkers, they must beat a halt, in some of their methods at least.

In our remarks on this wide subject, we have only been wading in the shallows on the margin of a deep, deep sea. Will some of our correspondents launch away and lead us on?

### Cavalry and Artillery Horses.

Nobody can doubt, from a national point of view, the immense importance of the trade awaiting the farmers of Canada, if the officers, now in this country on behalf of the Imperial Government, report favorably on this province as a field for the selection of cavalry and artillery horses. The raising of horses for export is at least as practicable as the production of beef cattle, and as a matter of fact, in competition with the rest of the world, Canada would be at greater advantage in the horse trade than in the cattle business. The short sea voyage tells in our favor more in equine than in bovine freight. Dead meat cannot be brought into competition; and lastly, the United States have not the kind of horses wanted, or what there may be of them are so much dearer than ours that the Americans can afford the expense of coming to Canada to get horses, and can pay 20% duty at the frontier. Horses, therefore, varying in worth from \$140 to \$180, can be procured in Ontario and shipped at Montreal, subject to a comparatively short inland journey by rail or boat to the head of navigation. The officers sent out here have no doubt obeyed orders; but at the very start a perhaps fatal mistake was made in giving them orders to buy on their own account. Had they contented themselves with ascertaining the most capable dealer or buyer in each neighborhood, and undertaken to pay him a commission on horses purchased through him, the animals selected by their commissioner to be inspected by them at any town having railway or steamboat communication with Montreal, in lots of not less than fifty, they would long ago have purchased the 300 horses that they have announced as the object of their visit. It is doubtful whether in the two months that have passed since their arrival they have secured thirty horses, and those who have seen the horses already bought declare them to be in the main such horses as a qualified dealer would not have dared to submit for their approval. If these horses are really up to the standard set by the Imperial authorities, then there are in this country five times as many suitable horses as the most enthusiastic promoter of the new trade ever dreamed of. Many of the horses purchased had been bought for \$50 or more below the price at which they were passed on to the English colonels. In fact it may be positively alleged that no Canadian expert would give

for the lot gathered at Cobourg anything like the price paid. The horses selected are presumably sound, and the large number of horses rejected for unsoundness proves that a deliberate attempt was made by the farming class to put off their worst horses on gentlemen whose personal appearance must have led the uninitiated countryman to mistake them for duds. A colonel of a crack hussar regiment and an artillery officer traveling with servants and a veterinary surgeon of the famous Royal Horse Guards Blue, constitute a cavalcade certainly calculated to impress the rustic mind with awe, and equally with a notion of boundless wealth. Horses that the dealer could have readily secured for \$150 have been put at \$175 to the colonels, and would have been put higher if that had not been understood to be their limit. The result of all this will be that Canadian horses will be reported to be exceptionally unsound, whereas the contrary is known by all experienced horsemen to be the case. Their value also will be reported upon, under circumstances favoring a gross misconception in this particular.

The colonels should not have come in contact with the owners; but, first, having informed themselves of current prices, they should have placed the matter in the hands of a dozen competent middlemen, instructed as to their requirements. Had this been done, we are satisfied that their 300 horses would have been procured in a month, or even less, if we may take it for granted that the horses which are now their property are really suitable for their purposes. Breeders very seldom ask or get more for a horse than the officers are offering, and in spite of the busy season of haying and harvesting the required horses might have been procured, if the course indicated had been pursued. It is no matter of surprise to anybody acquainted with the ordinary run of our farmers that very grotesque caricatures of the right sort of animal were brought in for inspection. It is no libel on the ordinary farmer to say that he is not a good judge of the various classes of horses and of the distinctions between them. He, the working farmer, knows the horse useful for his own purposes, and is apt to value any animal he may own at the price it is worth to himself. It is in this difference of value between a work horse and a pleasure horse that the dealer who caters for townspeople makes his living. The breeder sells for \$150 and is glad to get it, whereas the man with a trained eye has recognized points that are a sealed book to the farmer, and sells his purchase in Toronto or elsewhere for \$250.

It is advertised that on their return from the Northwest the colonels contemplate continuing their campaign. Prizes for horses suitable for army purposes are advertised at Toronto and Guelph; and the promoters of these two exhibitions perhaps fondly think that the desired animals will be brought in to the tune of hundreds. If the farmer knew what was wanted, this would be the case; but he does not. And as no qualified agents or dealers are interested in going amongst them and disseminating the needful information, a few lines of print will not teach men who are not versed in horse shibboleth what it is that the published handbills call for. Nor is Toronto a good centre for the collection of such horses. Selected country horses of the right stamp, once they are in Toronto, are worth more than regulation price. Toronto being on the lake, is a place with only one half of a circle to draw from, and the immediate neighborhood of the chief city of the Province, where there is a great demand for sound useful horses, cannot be the place in which to seek army remounts. This does not apply to Guelph, and we look for a better supply

in that district. In St. Thomas, too, there may be a fair share of horses for army purposes; but if the season were not too advanced for shipping in the end of October, it is at the township and county fairs that army horses could best be procured. Farmers cannot be too earnestly told that horses submitted to the Imperial commissioners must be absolutely sound and free of blemish, active, well-bred, and from 4 to 8 years old; girthing 72 inches, and measuring 8 inches under the knee. A very short horse would be covered by a trooper's saddle and accoutrements. A long backed horse is generally so because he lacks either shoulders or length of quarters. Between the two is "the just middle" which is wanted. But of all essential conditions for a cavalry horse, "riding shoulders," that is, high withers and an oblique slope of the bone thence to the point of the shoulder, is the one *sine qua non*. This will never have been obtained without a cross with the blood horse, and the paucity of thoroughbred stallions in the country will be a sore blow and heavy discouragement to the promoters and well-wishers of the present opportunity to find a set-off against the cheap price of other farm produce.

If the official report does nothing more than call attention to the irreparable damage done to our horse supply by the use of mongrel light harness stallions, the officers' present visit will not have been altogether unproductive of good. The thoroughbred stallion of the right stamp, strong in bone and sinew, with well-sprung ribs and two handsome ends, from almost any class of mare, will get a saleable colt. Government cannot interfere, though various schemes have from time to time been propounded with that end in view. The remedy lies in convincing the farmers, and the U. S. A. professors who made a tour through the Province last winter should lose no opportunity of inculcating the lesson. Perhaps other gentlemen might profitably share the labor, whether it be made one of love or emolument.

In conclusion, we would express our belief that if, on the departure of the Imperial commissioners, they encourage properly qualified agents to buy during the winter months, promising to take off their hands in April next such horses as are found suitable, at least five hundred horses will be found awaiting them on their second visit.

### Our Scotch Letter.

HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW.  
(Specially reported.)

A few notes on the annual exhibition of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, which was held at Dumfries during the last week of July, will form the subject of the present article. It is eight years since the writer last visited this pretty and snugly situated town, which has not inappropriately been called the "Queen of the South," on the occasion of the last show of the society at this centre. A good deal has happened since then, and agriculture has gone through a period of unexampled depression; but the lesson one may learn from the national gathering of last week is that the British farmer has not given way to despair or allowed the heavy burden of depression to clog his energies, for throughout the exhibition there were signs of improvement, and a gradual grading up which, in some sections, was particularly prominent.

For the first two days of the exhibition the Society basked under the beneficent influence of a brilliant sun, but unfortunately the last two days, when the coffers of the Society are generally most largely replenished, rain fell continuously, and the drawings for admission and catalogues, which amounted over all to £273 11s. 10d., were £103 6s. 11d. behind what they were in 1878. In any case it could not have been expected that the financial results would have been equal to what they were here.