

week or two. The system of milk records, which has now been in vogue in the Southwest of Scotland for more than a dozen years, has been the main factor in the rapid development of the Ayrshire breed. The breed is being reared on strictly utilitarian principles, but symmetry and good looks are not being sacrificed.

In the Clydesdale world by far the most notable event is the announcement of the retirement from the stallion-owning and export trade of William Montgomery, Banks, Kirkcudbright, and the consequent dissolution of the world-famed firm of A. & W. Montgomery, Netherhall, and Banks, Kirkcudbright. William Montgomery has been in the trade well nigh 40 years. His name first appears in the records of the Highland and Agricultural Society as an exhibitor at the Dumfries show of 1878. His exhibit on that occasion was a yearling filly by Darnley, which afterwards became known to fame as Provost Waddell's Louisa. His brother, the late Andrew Montgomery, on the same day, showed another yearling filly named Jeanie Sproat by Dandy Jim 221. She was placed first and Louisa was placed second. In 1879 Andrew Montgomery purchased Macgregor 1487 as a yearling colt for £65, and therewith for at least a dozen years or more (indeed for about 20 years) made Clydesdale history. In 1894 William Montgomery purchased Baron's Pride 9122 for rather a different figure, and at the H. and A. S. show at Aberdeen in that year the horse was champion stallion. As the world knows he also made Clydesdale history, and his descendants to-day dominate the Clydesdale world. The partnership between the two brothers, Andrew and William Montgomery, was formed in the later eighties, and it continued until the death of the older brother in the early months of 1912. A partnership was then formed between William Montgomery and his nephew Andrew Mitchell Montgomery of Netherhall, the period of which was six years. William is taking advantage of the expiry of this period to retire and his share of the hired stallions and probably one or two others, three years old and upwards, numbering in all about 25 head, will be sold at Lanark on Tuesday, 5th March, the buyers being held bound to fulfil the engagements of each horse. The half of the younger stock in the stud which fall to William Montgomery will be sold at a later date, in all probability in October. Few men having their homes on this side of the Atlantic are better known in Canada than William Montgomery, and the announcement of his intention to retire from the business with which he has been so long identified will be received with interest everywhere, and with deep regret on the part of all who know him personally. The date chosen for the sale of stallions, Tuesday, 5th March, is the day preceding the Scottish Stallion Show at Glasgow. The sale will be conducted by Messrs. Lawrie & Symington (Ltd.), the well known live-stock salesmen, and will be absolutely without reserve. Nothing will be sold on that date but William Montgomery's horses. These are not days when men care to make Atlantic voyages, but doubtless some will be present from Canada and the States on an occasion so historical as the dispersion of one-half of the Netherhall and Banks Clydesdale stud.

An interesting departure was recently taken by some department of our Government. A deputation of British farmers was sent over to view the war-desolated portions of Northern France. The deputation, on which four well-known Scottish agriculturists found a place, left on New Year's Day and have safely returned. They saw for themselves what war means in an agricultural area. I suppose it would be correct to say that it beggars description. The area seen is or was rich in agricultural resources, like the best land in Scotland, and it has been converted into a region as barren and desolate as the poorest moorland in Scotland. That it can ever be restored to a sound agricultural state, save at enormous cost in manual labor, seems rather doubtful. The exact purpose of the visit of this deputation to France under existing conditions has not transpired, but if it serves no other end than enabling British farmers to testify to their fellows from personal observation what War actually means, it will have served a good end. Too many fail to realize what invasion by a hostile force really means. This country has enjoyed such a long immunity from war experiences at first hand that even tradition fails to convey any adequate idea to our minds. First-hand impressions on practical agriculturists should, therefore, be invaluable, and probably more will be heard of these impressions.

I do not know whether I referred in my last letter to the trials of motor tractors and ploughs conducted by the Highland and Agricultural Society at three centres in the beginning of November. The official report on these trials has now been published and makes useful and instructive reading. The Society did not offer prizes. The trials were not competitive, and the official report offers us comments which would indicate the preferences of the reporters. This does not detract from the value of the report. Everyone who witnessed the trials was impressed by the immense progress made in the two years which had elapsed since trials took place at Stirling and Inverness. It is hardly possible to believe that such adaptability to Scottish necessities should have been exhibited under War conditions by makers overseas, for, of course, War conditions rendered it impossible for home manufacturers to take any but a very small part in the trials. Among other notable advances is recognition of the fact that mere weight of tractor is not an advantage. The reporters say that the weight need not exceed 30 cwt. of 112 lbs. each, and the price should not exceed £300. The minimum power required is 20 Brake Horse Power. This will enable a tractor to draw a two-furrow plough under the worst conditions, and a three-furrow plough under the best conditions.

Interest is being taken in the future of land legislation. There is a strong disposition to arrive at a sound, economic policy by agreement, and the Secretary for Scotland has made himself responsible for an effort to bring together landed proprietors, representatives of the farming interest, and supporters of the effort to settle men on small holdings, so that legislation which promises success on economic lines may be hopefully prosecuted. The legislation of 1911 has admittedly been a failure. This result is due to causes which I need not expand here. Briefly that legislation allowed a landlord to claim heavy damages from the Board of Agriculture on the ground that the settlement of small holders impaired the amenity of his residence or lowered the value of an estate as a sporting property. Arbiters with this claim before them have awarded such heavy damages against the Board that settlement on the land under the conditions created has been rendered economically impossible. But the exigencies of War have taught us

the necessity for peopling the land and the duty of the State to the men who have fought for us. Many of these at the close of the War will want to return to the land, and they should be encouraged by every legitimate means to do so. Afforestation is recognized as a legitimate accompaniment of land settlement, and Scotland is said to contain more than double the area of land suitable for afforestation to be found in England and Ireland put together. Obviously, therefore, afforestation is a Scottish subject, and it is undoubtedly a matter for the State and not for individual enterprise. If only we could all get rid of prepossessions and prejudices and address ourselves to the problems of the hour, the colonization of the waste places of Scotland might be entered upon with hope. But a root principle must be that Agriculture shall never be subordinated to Sport, as it has too much been in the past.

SCOTLAND YET.

Our National Live Stock Records.

In practically every country of the world where live stock is recognized as the vital factor in its agriculture, there is some established system to guard the purity of blood and see to it that the advantages which accrue from Nature's observance of hereditary laws are not overlooked or wilfully ignored. If the authorities of a commonwealth are still blind to the importance of agriculture, or if the paramount influence of live stock as a factor in that agriculture has not yet been revealed to them their system of registration may be very crude, such as our own was less than half a century ago. On the other hand a number of progressive nations have perfected their records to such an extent that the validity and bona fide character of the same meet with international recognition. This has made it possible to transport pedigreed animals from one country to another for the purpose of improving present stocks, either grade or pure-bred. With no assurance, such as a certificate of registration provides, one might purchase a good individual, only to find, through the peculiar operations of Nature's laws, that the offspring "reverted" to something very undesirable, buried forever in the past of an unpedigreed sire or dam. It is not the purpose of this article to champion or defend pure-bred live stock or to explain the registration of same in different countries. We only wish to draw the attention of our readers to the Canadian National Live Stock Records as something of which they may be proud, something which they should patronize, and something which they, as Canadians, should respect and support.

Some farmers are apparently afraid of a pedigree or certificate of registration, and would expect some ill to befall their homes if they should keep such a document in the house. It has also come to pass in certain districts that pedigreed animals, purchased perhaps as a start, failed to measure up to expectations, whereupon the whole neighborhood have unanimously condemned the pure-bred stock industry in general and the breeders in particular. In spite of these exceptions to the universally expressed approval of the pure-bred, it has found its way, accompanied by its pedigree, into the new districts, and there it will do for the settler and rancher what it has already done in the older portions of the country. At Ottawa is located the machinery upon which the whole industry depends, namely, the National Live Stock Records.

Brief History of Registration in Canada.

As early as 1853 the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario conceived the idea of doubling the premium given at the Provincial Exhibition on any female, and trebling the amount won by any male animal imported during the year. This practice led to an appreciation of the fact that some record should be kept of the breeding of improved stock, so a register was opened at the office of the Board in Toronto, where-in breeders might register their animals. This was the beginning, in Canada, of any system for the registration of pure-bred stock, and out of it grew through various stages of development the more elaborate system of the present.

After the initial effort on the part of the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario to institute records, several breed associations were formed and these maintained their own registers in different parts of the Dominion. In some cases, too, these were only provincial in scope, making several registers for the same breed with different standards for registration. Inter-provincial trade was thus badly handicapped, and the necessity of some unified system became apparent. Breeders began to agitate for government legislation providing for the incorporation of the Live Stock Record Associations. Such a bill was introduced in 1901, and was known as the Live Stock Pedigree Act. In 1904 a national convention of breeders was called by the Dominion Minister of Agriculture and the National Live Stock Association was formed. In April of 1915 an agreement was reached, and the National Record Board was formed.

Present System of Control.

The Canadian National Live Stock Records are so operated as to leave the control in the hands of the breeders, while the Government stands behind every certificate of registration. At first sight this may appear hazardous to the Government, but the constitution adopted by every breed association must be approved by the Minister of Agriculture, and every change in constitution must receive his sanction. The breed association sends its delegates to the Record Board, which is made up of representatives from all the as-

sociations, elected on the basis of two persons for every one hundred members or under, and one additional representative for each subsequent five hundred members. The breeders in the annual meetings of their associations enact such laws in regard to registration, etc., as they see fit, so long as such rules conform with the requirements of the constitution, and these recommendations are passed on to their representatives on the Record Board. The latter body now numbers something over fifty delegates, and it is necessary to vest authority in a smaller unit. The next step in condensation is the Record Committee, made up of one representative for each of the following: Heavy Horses, Light Horses, Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Sheep, Swine. The Chairman of the Record Board is also Chairman of this unit which, with a Secretary-Treasurer, make up the Record Committee. These in turn place an Accountant in charge of the office staff and equipment, and he has full supervision over the matter of registrations and business, being responsible, of course, to the Record Committee. At one time the registrars were responsible to the breed associations, whose applications for registration they were employed to handle, but this system was not found conducive to efficiency. Responsibility now leads back to the individual breeder through the following steps: Registrars, Accountant, Record Committee, Record Board, Record or Breed Association.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture maintains a paternal oversight of the registrations and guarantees the accuracy of the work of the Record Office.

The Canadian National Live Stock Records are unique in their democratic organization coupled with government support and guarantee. No other country in the world, unless it be South Africa, can boast of any higher standards which must be lived up to than those set before our own record administration. A constitution and rules, which the Record Board, Committee or Accountant have no power to alter, are there to guide in all matters, and for the enactment of these rules or laws the breeders are responsible.

The Breeders' Duty.

In any country, under any system of administration, honesty on the part of the breeder is the basic principle upon which the success of the records must depend. No method of recording pedigrees is yet extant that precludes absolutely the danger from falsified reports. Some records are looser than others, but in this respect the Canadian office has an enviable reputation for the exactness it demands on the part of applicants, and for the difficulty it places in the way of any suspicious pedigrees becoming recorded in the registers of the various associations. This condition of affairs, no doubt, leads some breeders to patronize records outside this country, but in doing so they are adding nothing to the prestige of their flocks or herds. Again, some breeders claim to find that trade with the United States is facilitated by having their stock recorded in that country; while, on the other hand, those who make it a practice to record strictly in Canada declare that they have not suffered thereby. Canadian breeders are, as a duty to their own institutions, doing the right thing by patronizing the Canadian records.

Some complaints have been heard of late years in regard to the time required to get replies from Ottawa. The Accountant in regard to this said in an interview that it is very difficult to hold a complete trained staff together since the war began, and that during rush times it is not possible to give the service for which the Canadian National Records were once noted. A clerk or member of the record staff is an individual trained especially in a particular kind of work; help cannot be drawn from schools, other offices or professions. They must be trained in the Record Office. It was also stated that 50 per cent. of the applications received had to be returned on account of errors or for further information. The breeders neglect to fill out the forms completely and delay results. Furthermore, people, as a rule, don't ask for a thing till they want it, and then they want it right away. It was recommended that young stock be recorded early. This would facilitate the work of the office, and breeders would find that certificates of registration would help to sell the young stuff offered for sale. More care taken with the private records at home would assist those on the outside to fill in their application forms, with greater accuracy; this, in turn, would result in more prompt replies and greater satisfaction to all concerned.

Growth of the Industry.

As an evidence of the growth of the live-stock in-

Associat

Shorthorn.....
Ayrshire.....
Hereford.....
Swine.....
Clydesdale.....
Hackney.....
Shire.....
Thoroughbre.....
Sheep.....
Aberdeen An.....
Galloway.....
Jersey.....
Red Polled.....
Guernsey.....
Canadian Ca.....
Canadian Ho.....
Pony.....
Belgian.....
Percheron.....
Suffolk.....
French Coac.....
Standard-Bre.....
Brown Swiss.....
Dogs.....
Record Com.....

Totals...

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