

LIVE STOCK.

INFECTIOUS SCOURS IN CALVES.

Heavy losses by the death of young calves from scours, occurring at the age of a few days, have been reported this spring from several districts. The disease appears to be of an infectious character, and is in many cases coincident with contagious abortion in the cows of the herd, it being noticed that in herds so affected, a considerable proportion of the calves that are carried full time fall victims to this class of scours in a few hours to a few days after birth. Veterinarians claim that, in many cases the disease is due to a germ which enters the system via the opening in the umbilical cord, or navel string, as in the case of newborn foals affected with navel-ill or joint-ill, in which case scours are also an accompaniment. As a preventive, in the case of both colts and calves, keeping the stall cleanly bedded, and disinfection of the navel string, is advised, for which latter purpose a solution of one part of corrosive sublimate, or of carbolic acid, to 500 of water, or a strong solution of Zenoleum or other of the coal-tar dips may be used immediately the calf is born, and two or three times daily till the cord is dried up. Formalin has been strongly recommended as a treatment for the cure of this, as well as for other classes of scours. Experiments have been carried out to determine what quantity of formalin may safely be given young calves, and it is advised that the following mixture be used for the purpose:



Chibiabas.

Thoroughbred stallion. King's Premium winner for Evesham and District, 1908.

One-half ounce of formalin mixed with fifteen and one-half ounces of distilled or freshly-boiled water, to be kept in an amber-colored bottle to prevent chemical changes from taking place. Of this mixture, add one teaspoonful to each pint or pound of milk fed to affected calves, or, as a preventive, it may be mixed with the skim milk just after separating, and then may be fed to all of the calves at such times as there seems to be danger of the trouble appearing, and this may be judged by noting the first signs of derangement of the digestive organs. In treating a scouring calf, the first step should be to give from one to two ounces of castor oil, shaken up in milk, and when this has acted then give the formalin mixture in milk. While one teaspoonful per pound of milk is said to be the proper dose of the formalin mixture for a very young calf, as much as one tablespoonful three times daily in a little milk has been given in the case of older calves. In obstinate cases of scours in calves, Dr. Alexander, of Chicago, says he has used, at the same time as the formalin mixture, when good results did not follow the use of this mixture alone, a mixture of one part of salol and two parts of subnitrate of bismuth. The dose of this mixture is one to two teaspoonfuls, according to size of calf and severity of case, and it may be repeated two or three times a day. It should be remembered that scouring calves should be isolated, and, after cleansing and disinfecting premises which have been occupied by affected calves the walls and woodwork should be whitewashed, and the floors covered with clean, dry bedding.

DEVELOP MILKING PROPENSITIES.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your editorial of some little time ago, relative to the milking capacity of Shorthorns, you not only indicated a profitable line of investigation and discussion, but you also suggested to Shorthorn breeders that particular portion of their bulwark which hitherto has been their impregnable strength, but from which, of late years, the best energies of the breeders have been withdrawn, in an effort to place the breed in the premier place among meat-producing breeds. The question opened was not concerning the especial value of Shorthorn milk, the comparative financial returns obtainable from well-conducted farms on which pure-bred beef and dairy breeds are kept, or the relative values obtained from public sales of dairy and of beef stock. Any man of moderate reading knows that, in the management of a pure-bred stock farm, whether it be for beef or milk, there is an unlimited field for success, and that the business capacity, the financial backing, and the knowledge of his particular line are the factors which determine most largely the extent of a man's success or failure. Neither will any man with a fair knowledge of the chemistry of milk readily believe that the milk of any particular breed, within a given species, differs radically in the character of its constituents or its influence from that of other breeds.

Each breed of cattle has its peculiar characteristics which specially adapt it to men's needs. The Herefords are renowned as grazers, for their aptitude to fatten, and that at any early age.

The Angus are model killers, of wonderful quality and a great richness of lean meat. Galloways are famed for their hardiness and their serviceableness under severe conditions. The Shorthorn has been heralded throughout all beef-producing countries as the farmer's cow, as having excellent beef form, wonderful adaptability to the various climates and conditions, and as producing a liberal quantity of milk. Amos Cruickshank, "The Laird of Sittyton," after a half century of patient persistence, molded the universal favorites into an excellence of beef form never before found under the coat of red, white and roan. His achievement has been zealously maintained and widely disseminated throughout the breed. But neither by Cruickshank nor by any of his devotees has persistent effort been directed towards improving the character of the milk flow; so that, during the last few years, the breed, shorn of part of its old-time strength, competes for public favor in a slightly-different role, and at a disadvantage.

It is not to be denied that there will be great profit for many years to come from the breeding of Shorthorns selected solely for beef production, but it remains true that extensive beef production is gradually and quickly becoming less, that small farms are supplanting the large estates; in short, an increasing population is gradually intensifying agriculture. If Shorthorn breeders are working for the present decade alone, there is less doubt of the advantage of a purely beef type. Yet even at this very time there is a great demand for dual-purpose Shorthorns. Men who advertise their cattle as such, find an active market for them under present conditions.

Undoubtedly, we shall always have supplies of both beef and milk; whether we shall obtain these both from one breed of stock, or be obliged to follow two or more specialized lines, depends upon the disposition of the breeders. A number of men will prefer to adhere to highly-specialized breeding, but in the main it is safer and more pleasant practice to produce both beef and milk upon the same farm. In several sections of Old Ontario a peculiar history has recorded itself. Twenty-five years ago beef production was most unprofitable, and the people turned entirely to dairying, whereby their mortgages have been lifted; excellent barns, houses and outbuildings have been built, and a moderate degree of wealth has been attained. In these very communities

ably improving in what constitutes true commercial value in dairy points. The bodies of the cows are bigger, heavier and more roomy than they used to be; the vessels and teats, while not less accurately formed, are much more indicative of milk yield. The teats are undoubtedly more like what they ought to be in the case of cattle whose owners have to milk them early in the morning seven days a week. These remarks, of course, do not apply all round. The small-teated animal may still be found, but, taking all in all, sound progress is being made in the breeding of Ayrshire cows. Milk records have "caught on." At Midland, Fenwick, a sale of cows with milk records brought a high average of prices. The demand was steady and remunerative; 42 cows averaged £21 8s. 11d. each; six two-year-old heifers £14; 9 yearling heifers £18 1d. 1d.; and 22 calves £7 4s. 4d.; 89 head made an average of £16 15s. 1d.

Patrons of the milk-record Ayrshire have lost an ardent supporter in Mr. Andrew Clement, Produce Broker, Glasgow. Mr. Clement was a self-made man of business. He began life as a herd laddie in Fenwick parish, Ayrshire; came into Glasgow, learned the retail provision trade, and at 21 was a master, and on his own account. He bought cheese direct from the farmers, and in this way gradually worked himself into a sound wholesale trade. He then abandoned the retail trade, and from small beginnings built up one of the largest businesses in home and foreign produce known in Great Britain. Mr. Clement was very well known in Canada, where he had wide business connections. He was an ardent supporter of milk-record Ayrshires, and bought extensively at the Midland sale. He kept a model dairy at Netherston, about seven miles south of Glasgow, and there was one of the first to fit up and use daily the Lawrence-Kennedy mechanical milking machine. Anything and everything that made for improvement in dairy stock or in dairying methods found in Mr. Clement an ardent supporter. He is now gone, and we will all miss him. A fine type of the energetic, good-living Scotsman, he has left behind him a splendid reputation.

Dairying interests have a sore struggle with adversities in this country. Parliament is to be invited to legislate so that a plentiful supply of pure milk from clean cows may be put before the people. Sanitary byres and milk-houses are demanded. All are agreed that the cows should be healthy, the byres (or stables) well ventilated and clean, and the human agents healthy. The contemplated legislation is, in some respects, drastic, and what the British farmer grumbles at is the fact that, while he is placed under all kinds of restrictions, and his trade is handicapped, his rivals over the sea, who have unrestricted access to his ports, are under no such restrictions. The British farmer wants a fair show. He is not unwilling to fight his competitors, but he wants to fight with both hands free for action. As a rule, the British dairy farmer is not a Protectionist. He is under the necessity of purchasing such quantities of imported feeding stuffs that no possible advantage would accrue to him from the imposition of tariff dues. The grain-grower, on the other hand, is very apt to be a Protectionist. He expects that a small duty on grain would help him considerably; that is to say, he expects that grain would rise in price. No doubt it would, and that would help the farmer. But it is more than doubtful whether the consumer would consent to this arrangement. He has many things to think about, but first of all he wants cheap food. Any proposal to increase the price here is fatal. The average British working man won't have it, and he has the voting power, and is ready to exercise it on the first opportunity.

SCOTLAND YET.

THE KING'S PLATE RACE.

At the spring meet of the Ontario Jockey Club, at the Woodbine race-course, Toronto, on May 25th, thirteen horses entered the contest for the King's Plate, the principal event of the meet. The winner was Seismic, a bay three-year-old colt, bred and owned by J. E. Seagram, M. P., of Waterloo, Ont.; sire Havoc, by Himyar; dam, Imp. Semley, by St. Serf; Fairweather, jockey; time, 2.11, which constitutes a new record for all the years that the plate has been run at its present distance of a mile and a quarter. Shimonese, a chestnut filly, three years old, by Martine, dam Lyddite, by Derwentwater, bred and owned by Valley Farm (Messrs. Hendrie), Hamilton, ridden by Mulcahey, was second in the race. The third horse was the brown four-year-old colt, Half-a-Crown, by Halfing, dam Martyrdom, by St. Blaize, bred and owned by Mr. Seagram.

I received the premium watch, and am very much pleased with it. Father takes "The Farmer's Advocate," and we are well pleased with it. Dundas Co., Ont. D. HOWARD WALKER.