

together, yet the head may be serving in the ranks as a fighting unit and his servants only doing half work. Indeed, the whole business of recruiting and food production is at present in a state of confusion, and unless wiser counsels prevail than have been exhibited in some cases, there will be less increase in the production of food in 1916 than the necessities of the nation call for.

Farm work is at least three weeks behind, and unless the weather moderates and the land dries up very rapidly, the leeway, on account of labor scarcity, will not be made up. The huge munition factories which have sprung up over the country are a serious menace to agriculture. The wages offered alike to men and women in these are so excessive that it is simply impossible for the farmer to compete with them. Consequently farm labor within a twenty mile radius of these factories is severely handicapped. Even the lads whose duty it is to heat the cans for the laborers' meals are said to be getting one pound per week, and the most deplorable fact is that a full day's work is not being given for the large wages that are being earned. This is the serious factor in our national outlook. It meets us everywhere. In the munition factories, conscientious lads, such as students and eager, earnest women, who are keen to finish the war are being handicapped and hustled by the shirkers and the apostles of the cult of "ca canny." It is a deplorable fact that great numbers of our working men or artisan population will not put their shoulders to their tasks and give a full day's work of ten hours per day for six days a week in order to shorten the war and save the Empire. One almost despairs of a triumph for the Allies while the present condition of things continues. The difference between the output when every man gives an honest day's toil for ten hours each working day, and the output when he is a slacker and will neither himself work his best nor allow others to do so, is the difference between victory and defeat; between an enduring peace, and a desultory and wasting war. "Less talk and more work" was the keynote of a speech delivered in the London Mansion House lately by Lord Provost of Glasgow, and this ought to be the keynote of endeavor in every department of national life. We are still far from victory, because, speaking of the people of these islands generally, we are still far from unselfishness.

The scarcity of labor and the backward condition of farm labor have naturally whetted the demand for labor-saving implements on the farm. An inquiry has been instituted by the Highland and Agricultural Society as to the extent to which the mechanical milking machine and the oil engine might be employed. It would appear as if these two forms of mechanical aid were the most likely to be adopted. Milkers are and have been scarce, and indeed it must be recognized that the shortage of certain classes of labor in agriculture has not dated from August, 1914. The exigencies of the War have certainly intensified the difficulties, but they did not create them. The history of the use of mechanical milking machines in Scotland is a curious one. In it there has been an ebb and flow, and for a

time hand milking seemed to have reasserted itself as the more economical. The general attitude of farmers to the use of the machine prior to the war was, it is a very good substitute for hand milking, and in some respects it is an improvement upon it; but it is unwise and uneconomical to introduce the machine when a sufficiency of labor can be secured for milking twice a day. The usual form of labor employed was that of the women folks in the families of ploughmen and other employees on the farm. The amount paid to them for an hour's work at both ends of the day was a substantial addition to the income of the cottage, and on every ground it was found desirable to encourage that form of labor. But the war has intensified the scarcity of labor more ways than one. Many women who formerly assisted farmers in milking and at other forms of seasonal labor on the farm, during the past season declined the duty. Through the enhanced wages of their male folks the family revenue had been found sufficient for its needs, and they, therefore, refused to work as of yore. Many dairy farmers have, therefore, again reverted to the mechanical milker. It has been greatly improved during the past two years, and the universal opinion is that when once installed now it will not be displaced. The unwisdom of introducing the mechanical milker when hand labor could be secured, lay in the lessening of inducements to the families of laborers to remain on the land. The more work there was for them all the year round the better. My impression, however, now is that the scarcity of labor has become so pronounced that the mechanical milker has come to stay.

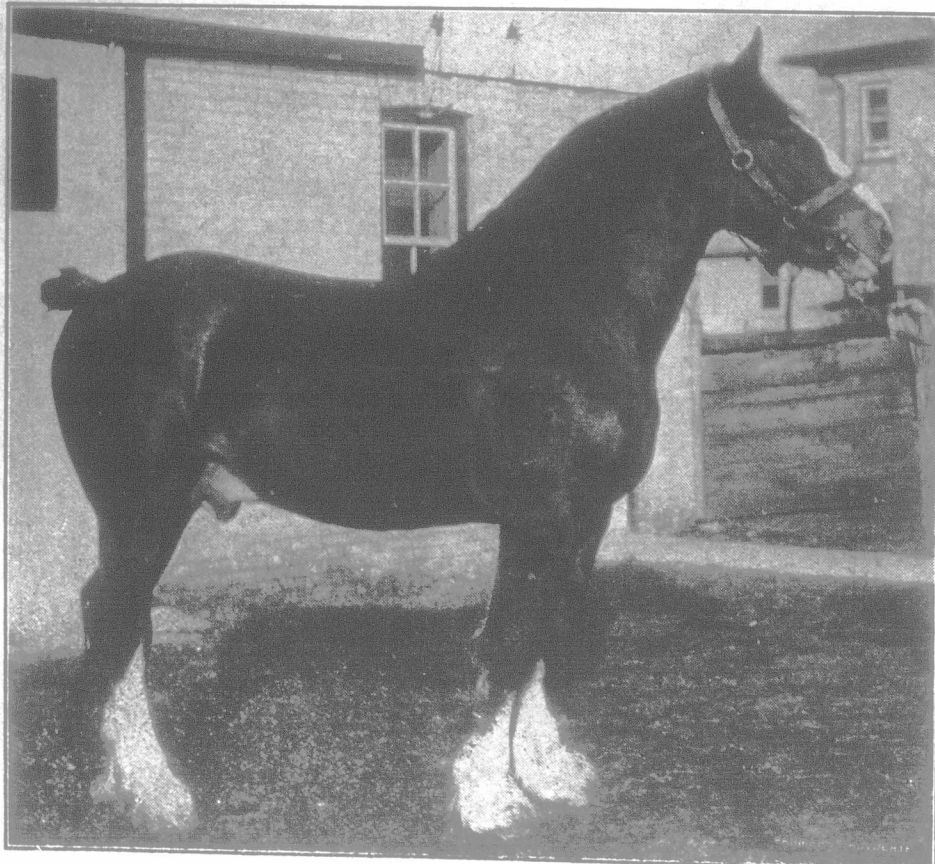
The oil engine is reported to have undergone such substantial improvements in America that it is likely to supplant all other forms of power on the farm. Farmers hitherto have rather favored steam than oil, mainly because of the dual purpose to which steam could be put. It supplied motive power, and it also could be utilized for cleansing purposes. The use of steam for cleaning dairying utensils has been widespread on well-appointed farms. Oil engines could not serve this dual purpose. But the lack of labor to work horses has led farmers to consider another side of the question, namely, the adaptability of the oil engine as a tractor. If it be the case that such improvements have been effected on these engines as will make them equally serviceable when stationary and when employed in traction, we are likely to see a great increase in their use among farmers.

Already the motor plough is in use on various farms, and an experiment is being made with Myles' motor plough in West Lothian. The idea is to see what use can be made of it by the ordinary farm hand. This is an important consideration. An implement which works all right in the hands of an expert may not be quite so serviceable when it comes to be handled by a man with no training as a mechanic. Whether Myles' plough will come through this test remains to be seen. Our opinion is that it will survive it all right, and give very good results when handled by a man of ordinary intelligence; if he has a taste for mechanics so much the better.

Farmers are greatly exercised about the sup-

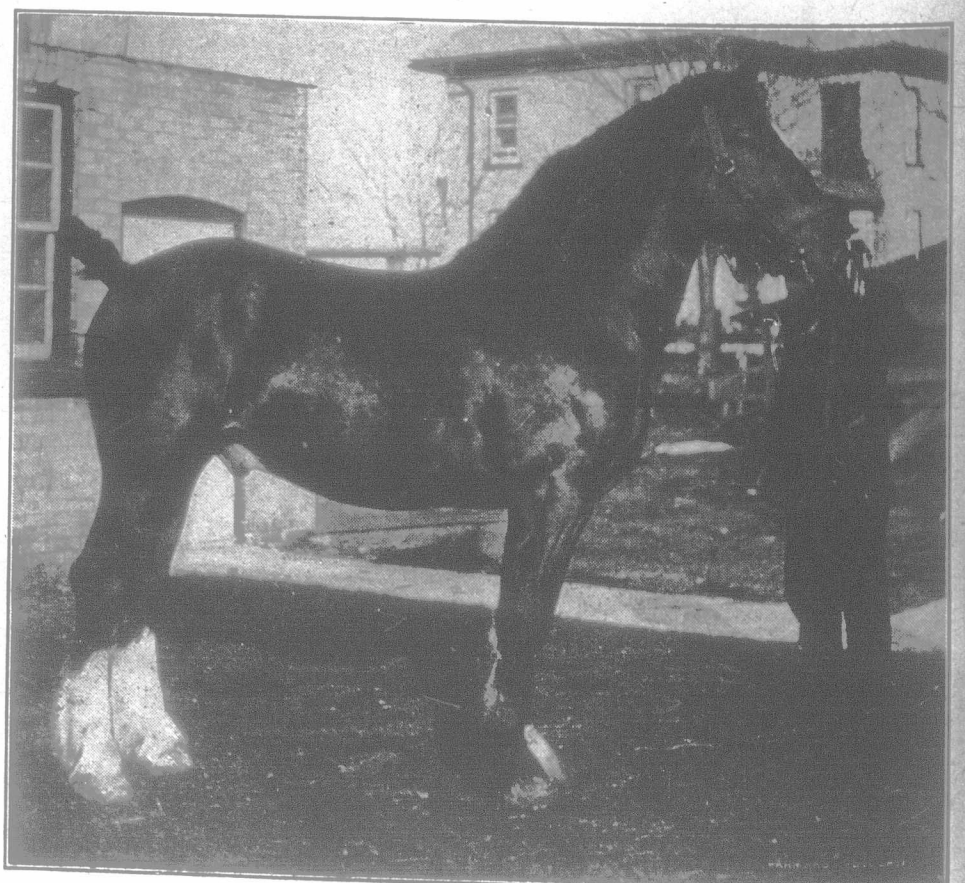
plies of light manures for spring application. Sulphate of ammonia is one of the most important of these. It is a source of nitrogen, and has, in Scotland, to be applied in the spring. Were it applied earlier it would be washed away with the winter rains. It is a by-product in the manufacture of shale, and to a large extent it is made in Scotland. A committee has been appointed under the presidency of F. D. Acland, M. P., to safeguard the agricultural interest in regard to this manure, and some of the actions led farmers to fear that it was being hoodwinked by the manufacturers. It goes without saying that neither among manufacturers, nor farmers, nor artisans are all patriots; there is a deal of selfishness in every section of the community, and the temptation to make money out of the war is strong. Ship-owners are simply lining their pockets with gold or its equivalent, and with a foreign demand for sulphate of ammonia, and also a demand from the munition works, the price went up about £5 per ton on its normal figure. That is to say, the normal figure may be anywhere round about £13, but the manufacturer's war price is £18 10s. He wants an open market price, that means a price which the war demand enables him to claim and enables him to get. The farmer would have little ground to complain of this if he was treated in the like fashion, and allowed to charge a war price for his hay. But he is not. He is forced to sell his hay to the Army at a price fixed by three parties, and until the War Office has said it has got all it wants he cannot sell to anybody else. He sold the best of his crop of 1915 to the War Office at a price round about £5 per ton. Recently the open market price for what he was allowed to sell after the War Office was supplied, was £7 10s., and so inferior was the quality of this stuff sold at the higher price that some men with consciences were ashamed to see it leaving their farms. The Government was slow to move, but last week they brought pressure to bear on the manufacturers of sulphate of ammonia by suspending licenses for export until the agricultural demand has been met. This suspension cannot be indefinitely prolonged, because it is admitted that agriculture cannot at the outside take more than about one-third of the entire British production of sulphate of ammonia, and it is in the national interest that as much as possible of everything we can spare should be exported, provided it does not reach the enemy. Farmers are, therefore, being urged to buy their sulphate of ammonia at once, and not wait until stocks have so accumulated that the price will be depressed. It may then be too late.

Transport difficulties are to determine many things for us here. Those who look a little below the surface see many grounds for disquietude. Railways are congested, and coasting shipping is being suspended. The one thing reacts on the other, and it may be weeks after a farmer places his orders for manures before they reach him. This arises from no lack of will on the part of the transport agencies or the merchants, but solely from conditions created by the war. All forms of transport have been commandeered for government service first. Train services are being curtailed all round, and the fact of the mat-



King of Chiselhurst [17320].

Clydesdale stallion; foaled June 14, 1913, sire King Thomas (imp.) (9254) [12625] dam Lady Florizel [18650]. This colt, weighing 1,660 lbs., is for sale at the stables of T. J. Berry, Hensall, Ont.



King's Own Prince [17501].

Another good colt by King Thomas (imp.), dam Cumberland Rose (imp.) (27712) [25573]. This one, also rising three, weighs 1,630 lbs., and is for sale, by T. J. Berry, Hensall, Ont.