

edly the godly upbringing of the "youth of this realm." Little change took place in the methods of education during these three centuries. The teachers were frequently men of university training themselves, destined for the ministry, but from various causes prevented from exercising themselves in that calling. They had a love of learning for its own sake, and it was their pride when they found among their scholars "a lad o' pairts" to bestow extra pains upon him, to give him a good sound education in what is elementary, and in classical and mathematical studies, so that hundreds of such lads were sent annually from the parish schools direct into the universities. Those who were not so promising received a full grounding in Bible knowledge, and in elementary arithmetic, as well as in writing. Hence many a village carpenter in Scotland, and many a farmer, was found whose calligraphy was a work of art. The New Testament was the junior lesson book, after the alphabet had been mastered, and the whole Bible the senior, while the intellect and the moral faculties were trained and exercised through the splendid medium of the Shorter Catechism, a manual of religious instruction compiled by Puritans, which still holds an honored place in many a public day school in Scotland. This scheme of things began to come to an end in 1872. Parliament then interfered. An Education Act was passed, which left the control of religious education in the hands of the ratepayers in each parish or borough (the electoral areas), and appointed the control to be in the hands of local Boards, working alongside of a Department of Education, whose head in Parliament was to begin with the Lord Advocate and now is the Secretary of State for Scotland. Fol-

lowing this change came a gradual development of education in accordance with a stereotyped code, the aim of which was to equip children for service in commercial and industrial pursuits, while little or nothing was done to awaken in their minds an interest in rural affairs or a love for country life. The issue has been that we have been training clerks and typists and neglecting almost altogether to train ploughmen and dairymaids. The young people have for years trokked from the rural districts into the towns, with the result that the less exacting departments of commercial life are overcrowded, while there is a scarcity of youth of both sexes to carry on agricultural work. It is a good feature of our time that this is being recognized, and with its recognition there is some hope of improvement and amendment. In rural schools now attention is bestowed on garden work, an attempt is being made to show the children how to identify grasses, and scope is being afforded for developing an acquaintance with the live stock of the farm. But there is much leeway to make up, and the new pathway will not be built in a year, or even in a decade.

The census returns of 1911 came as a revelation to many. The facts concerning the depletion of rural districts were in a general way suspected or recognized, but when the relative details were set forth in cold type the impression created by them was deeper. Many who had treated lightly the problems of the country now became wide-awake, and the necessity for encouraging people to remain on the land was recognized as imperative. The panaceas now suggested, and, indeed, claimed by farmers, are more cottages for their workmen, so that young men may

be encouraged to marry and settle down in the country, a re-casting of the lines of education in rural schools, the provision of great attractions socially in village life, and some modification of the hours of labor for farm workers. Whether most of these changes cannot be secured without resort to legislation is the present problem. It will be unfortunate if they cannot. But in any case change is necessary, and something must be done. The exodus to Canada is undoubtedly an element in the case, and the inducements hitherto offered there have been sufficient to make restive the young life at home. But the present slackening of the "boom" in emigration is regarded as an opportune moment for endeavoring to modify home conditions.

We are on the eve of the Spring Stallion Show at Glasgow, and men are taking account of the Clydesdale situation. Nineteen hundred and thirteen was another year of prosperity for all interested in Clydesdale horses. At date no fewer than 108 stallions are under line for 1914; 18 are under line for 1915, and one is under line for 1916. These figures point to great buoyancy in the horse trade. Good draft horses have never been in greater demand; they have never been more difficult to procure than at the present time. City contractors are willing to pay any reasonable price for matured geldings fit for hard work on the streets. Such horses can be sold for anything up to £100, a common figure being £75 or £80 for big six-year-old horses, weighing about 1,800 lbs. or over. Interest in heavy-horse breeding is at fever heat, and trade may be expected to be brisk for such animals for a while to come.

SCOTLAND YET.

## The Dairy Shorthorn Situation and a Report of the Work at Macdonald College.

Three years ago the dairy Shorthorn in the United States and Canada was a myth, discussion of the subject ridiculed, and men working with such cows generally despised. To-day one need not emphasize the change in attitude, it is apparent to every one, not only has the noise of mythology ceased but many of the noise-makers are now proclaiming the reality and virtues of these cattle, even some of our most prominent dairy papers have been most flattering in their treatment of them, devoting column after column to their discussion, and everybody who in the past twenty-five years has had a Shorthorn that gave a pailful of milk at any one time is now advertising the fact. What is the explanation? To answer the question briefly the economic situation in many districts where beef cattle have been carried to the extreme has demanded something else, dairying as a speciality does not appeal to everyone, and will not fit all conditions equally well. People have been compelled to give the matter serious consideration, and have come to know more about it. Some of those who talked loudly about milking Shorthorns had little or no knowledge of them, others may have had an axe to grind. Be that as it may, a better understanding of these cattle is now being obtained. Many of our best-informed men believe they can fill a place in the farm practice of our country, and consequently they are being accorded the present appreciation.

In the greater appreciation and consequent demand, however, I think there is a pitfall. The tide has been turned, and it would seem that many people are apt to drift with it. There is an element of danger in demand for any breed. Breeders are apt to turn to extremes in their ambition, and little discrimination is made when

everything sells. Dairy Shorthorns afford concrete illustration at the present time.

The supply and demand of this class of cattle are farther apart than in the case of any other, and the fact that there has been so much misconception in regard to them adds to the danger. Even in England to-day we have illustration of the breeders' extremes. Blood and performance in milk are being sought at the expense of everything else. Utility and beauty of form are too often entirely forgotten. And yet if dairy Shorthorns are to mean anything at all and merit a place, important as their milk-paying power and breeding may be, their conformation and fleshing ability must be the great asset. If these cannot be supplied to better advantage than in the case of the dairy breeds, dairy Shorthorns have no place in this country. The race for records and the craze for blood may spell some advantage to every breed with them, but if conformation and general utility are left behind they spell ultimate disaster for any breed, and in the case of the dairy Shorthorn a much shorter time will be necessary for the consummation. Herein lies the misunderstanding as to what purpose they may serve. The dairy Shorthorn should not be expected to compete with the dairy breeds in milk production, and in my opinion has no place in a section where dairying is the established practice with dairy blood predominating and a market for dairy products to justify it. On the other hand we have sections, in many cases large areas, in this country to-day where beef blood predominates, and where milking propensities have practically disappeared, large areas of land are available for grazing and mixed farming, the established practice has been beef making, originally some milk production included, the best market for dairy products is not easy of access and labor is

scarce and dear. Viewing such a situation from the various angles mentioned, the dairy Shorthorn would seem the most reasonable proposition. From a breeding standpoint results can be more easily and more quickly obtained through maintaining the predominating blood. The condition of labor and land can be met to good advantage in a combination practice; no violent change in the established practice need be necessary and this is worth while, because the dairy business is quite a different story to that of beef making, and many a man may find it out to his disgust when it is too late. When made a speciality it entails knowledge, time, labor and application to an extent which would be new to the average beef man. To mention a concrete case which has recently come within my observation, a certain farmer in a district in the Province of Quebec has dropped the beef practice and launched into dairying. He introduced dairy-bred bulls in his herd, now has a lot of very ordinary cows and not being within close radius of Montreal, in order to obtain this the most attractive market is compelled to deliver his milk a distance of three miles to the station at four a. m. throughout the winter. I have reason to believe this man has a number of associates throughout Quebec and Ontario. Attractive as dairying is, at best it means a lot of steady hard work on the average farm, and under adverse conditions such as above is bound to run a losing race.

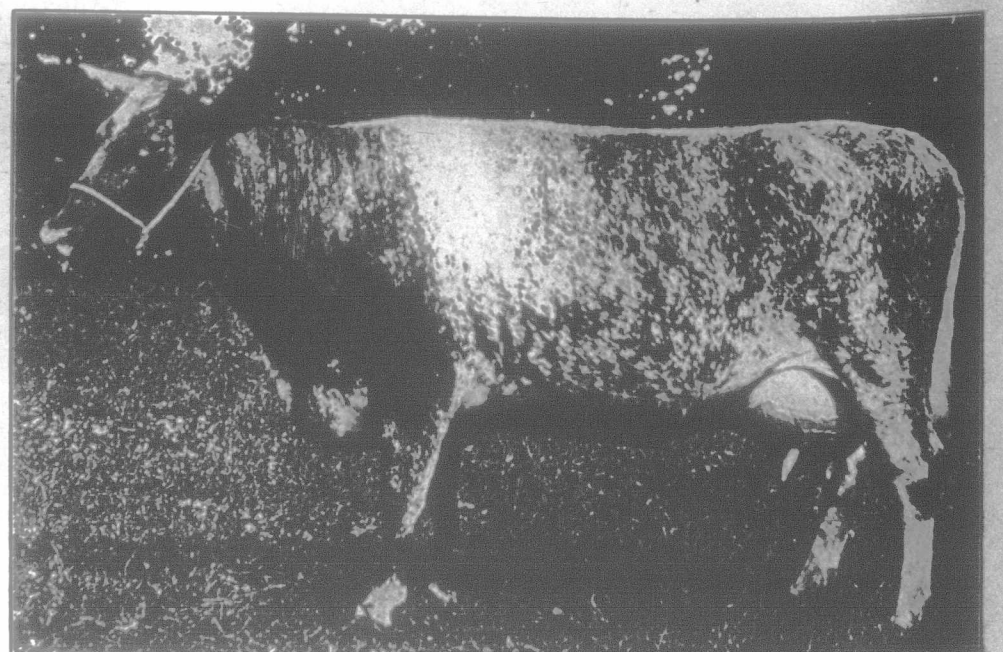
### MISCONCEPTION RE TYPE.

A Shorthorn in order to give milk does not need to be a weed when judged even from a beef standpoint. Here is something upon which considerable trading is being done, and in such event the great purpose which this class of cattle is expected to serve is being ignored. It is a fact



Milking Shorthorn.

A representative of the Waterloo tribe, popular in England at present.



A Darlington Cranford.

This Shorthorn cow was bred for milk, yet carries an abundance of flesh.