

Our Scottish Letter.

I believe it is four weeks since I wrote something for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and therefore I must endeavor to make up for lost time. All the same, there is not very much of interest to Canadians to write about. Here we are in the midst of the show and export season. Every week we have many shows, and every week large consignments of Clydesdales have left Scotland for Canada. We are also having a racy fight among the pig men, in connection with the awards at the Highland, which have been subjected to considerable adverse criticism. At the Royal Lancashire and the Yorkshire these awards were overhauled, with results by no means complimentary to the judge at the Highland. Of course, judges differ, but there seems to be a pretty general feeling that the awards at the Highland were in some cases, not quite according to Cocker. Anyhow, the pig men have made things lively for the past four weeks.

Parliament has adjourned for the autumn recess. Before it rose, the Secretary for Scotland got leave to introduce a remarkable bill. Scottish Crofters have benefitted greatly through the legislation of 1886 and 1887. That legislation has more than justified itself in the greatly improved condition of the Crofter settlements throughout the counties in which the act was operative. These counties were Argyll, Inverness, Ross and Cromarty, Sutherland, Caithness, and Orkney and Shetland. There was a cry for an extension of the Act to certain other counties. This was a cry that could not very well be refused, but the Secretary has gone much further than anyone asked him to go when the amendment of the Act was called for. Instead of acceding to this request, he has introduced a measure which supercedes the Crofters Acts altogether, and extends the benefits conferred on the Crofters to all holders of farms throughout Scotland paying £50 or less rent per annum. The new measure also proposes to give a land Commission, with power to fix rents and settle disputes between landlord and tenants, as well as power to take land and divide it up into small holdings. The purpose is to settle people on the land, and there can be no more laudable purpose. The new measure is of such a far-reaching character that it has fairly taken the country by surprise, and a good deal of water will run through the mill before it becomes law. So far, men have not quite taken in Mr. Sinclair's proposals, and it is possible that the House of Lords may take a strong line in dealing with the measure should it ever get the length of a third reading in the House of Commons.

Mr. Haldane, the Minister of War, has got himself into trouble with a considerable section of Scots' opinion through the terms of a new meat contract, sanctioned by the War office. In this, home-fed-and-bred meats are up upon the same level as the States and Canadian cattle. Forfarshire has led the opposition, and East Lothian, Mr. Haldane's own constituency, is inclined to follow suit. As far as we can make out, Mr. Haldane's defence is, a saving of £50,000 per annum, with the certainty of getting the same kind of meat as before. That is to say,

in the past the clause in the contracts restricting the delivery of home-bred and home-fed cattle has been treated as a dead letter, while the extra price has been paid. I scarcely think the change will be departed from. It is too late to begin worrying about a matter of this kind. The home feeder will very likely be quietly dropped after the Ministers interested have their little say, and left matters very much as they were. Breed and feed the best, and quality will determine market values. This seems to be the idea of the Minister of War, and little more can be made of it.

SCOTLAND YET.

Starting in Bacon Hog Production.

To get the right article of uniform type and quality we must use breeds that are suitable for the bacon industry. We have in Canada to-day a few dozen breeds or more, more commonly the Tamworth, the Poland-China, the Chester White, the Berkshire, the Duroc Jersey, the Essex and the Yorkshire. The Yorkshire, though I mentioned it last, is probably not the least. In fact, I know it is the most popular among bacon men and is certainly very suitable for bacon production; in fact I know that in the case of the Yorkshire, the Tamworth, the Berkshire and the Chester White feeding is practically the whole thing. You can take pigs from any one of those breeds and spoil them if you do not feed them right. Now that is the question we want to pay attention to to-day, the proper feeding of these pigs to get first class bacon out of them.

Don't think for an instant that I advise you to go into pure-breds. That is an expense, and quite an unnecessary one, for I believe that if you are satisfied or willing to provide yourselves with first-class boars of any one of the breeds I have mentioned, particularly Yorkshire, Tamworth and Berkshire, you may anticipate first-class results by using the common sows of the country. We have all through Quebec—I am not particularly familiar with your conditions here—but all through Quebec I have seen sows, in the fields and in pens, which if crossed with the right class of male, would give first-class results. There is not the slightest necessity for going in for pure-bred pigs in order to get good results. Of course I will say this: if you have to buy your stock to start with, it is just as well to get pure-breds. You can occasionally sell a first-class animal for a somewhat higher price than you could get if you were selling them to the butcher. If you are not anxious to sell pure-breds at all, then I would advise you to use sows of one breed and boars of another. Sows of one breed and boars of another usually make the very best animals for this industry. For instance a good Yorkshire sow and a Berkshire boar give a splendid animal; or a good Berkshire boar and a Tamworth sow. I have never in all my experience had pigs that made a better class of bacon pigs than that cross of the Berkshire boar and the Tamworth sow. There are fifty of them at the farm and I never saw anything like them. They are quick growers and are ravenous eaters. That is an important consideration, and that

is one reason why cross-breds are superior to the pure-breds. I never advise a man to keep pure-breds for bacon or meat production.

J. H. GRISDALE, C.E.F., Ottawa.

Want to Slaughter at Alderney Island.

Negotiations have been under way looking to the establishment by a syndicate of capitalists of an abattoir on the Island of Alderney, in the English Channel, to slaughter Argentine cattle and sheep, to the number of 500 cattle and 4,000 sheep weekly, the carcasses to be shipped directly to the meat markets of Britain and the Continent. Alderney is a small island of but four square miles in extent, and, what is more important, is but sixty miles from England. If the project takes definite shape, it will be a development of some importance to Canada and other countries which look to Britain as an outlet for live-stock products.

Demand for Dairy Stock.

The demand for dairy stock is strong. "Where can I secure a good dairy cow or bull?" That is the question asked of our representatives throughout the far West, and the question is pretty hard to answer. The breeding of pure stock would prove profitable right now. Several have made a start but there is practically nothing to sell. The business should be tempting to young men especially to some who have come from the settled dairy districts of Ontario and the East. Cool nights, good pasture and comparatively mild winters in the far West make for prosperity in the dairy business and increases the demand for good stock.

The breeders of purebred dairy stock are missing their opportunities in not advertising in the columns of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. The command "to let your light shine before men" applies to the breeder of dairy stock, he cannot afford to hide his light under a bushel.

Information for Holstein Breeders.

TO THE EDITOR:

At the recent annual Meeting of this Association, a resolution was passed informing breeders generally that the concern calling itself the International Consolidation Record Association of Himrods, N. Y., and offering and purporting to issue certificates of registry of Holstein cattle, as well as other live stock, had no Holstein records sufficient to permit it to issue a certificate of registry nor could it obtain sufficient information therefor from the Holstein-Friesian Association of America, and that any such certificates issued by the International Consolidated Records were without value and useless as certificates of registry. The certificates of registry of the Holstein-Friesian Association bear upon their face the signature of F. L. Houghton as Secretary and the corporate seal printed thereon (embossed up to 1904) in yellow ink.

Very respectfully,

F. L. HOUGHTON,
Secretary Holstein-Friesian Association, America.

Calf Scours and a New Treatment.

Dr. Louis A. Klein, the veterinarian to the South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, summarizes his report of his experiments with formalin in the treatment of calf scours as follows:

Twelve milk-fed calves affected with "scours" were treated by adding formalin to the milk in the proportion of one part of the drug to 4000 parts of milk.

Eleven recovered without any additional treatment—seven on the second day after the use of the formalin was begun, three on the third day and one on the ninth day.

The other calf, No. 11, required additional treatment, but finally recovered.

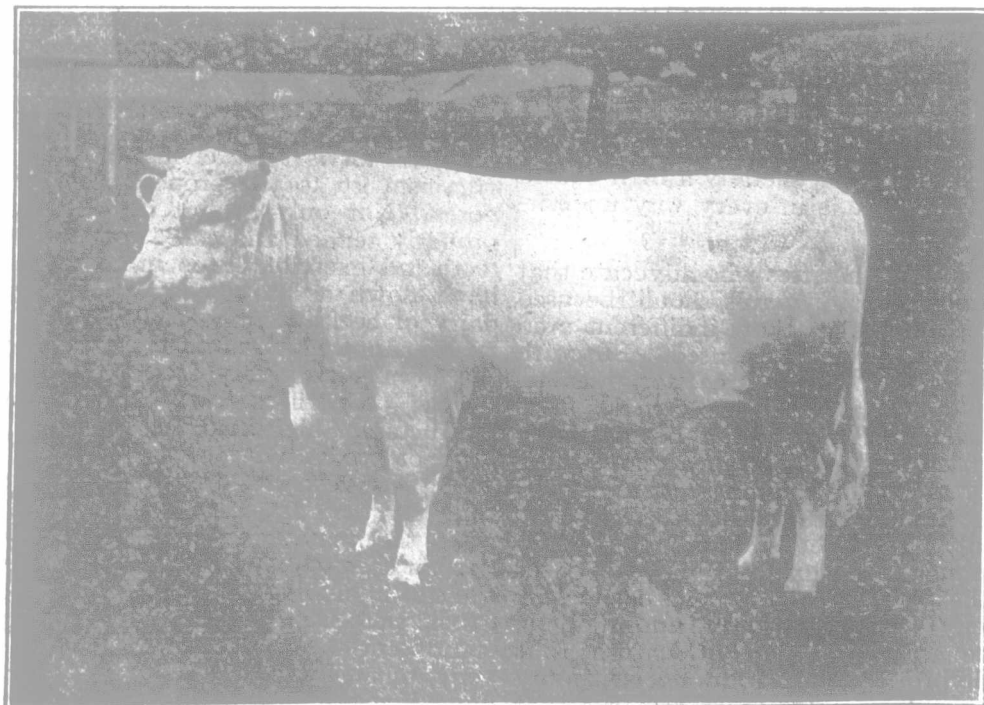
Three cases of "scours" in calves being fed on grain and running at pasture were treated with formalin, but the drug did not prove effective in this variety of the disease.

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Irish bacon and hams are renowned for their mild cure combined with good keeping quality, excellent flavor, uniform quality of each particular brand, and comparative freedom from "mis-cures." This reputation extends to the Continent, Irish hams being especially prized in Paris and Brussels.

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The grain dealers' estimate of the crop from the far west is eighty four and a half million bushels of wheat.



METEOR (36631)

Three-year-old Shorthorn Bull, Champion at the Highland, 1906.